

A HISTORY OF PIERCETON, INDIANA

BY

GEORGE A. NYE

977.2

1952

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DUE

Our County History

By County Historian Marion W. Coplen

Exactly one hundred years ago today, Lewis Keith and John B. Chapman platted a village in the southern part of Washington township. It was laid out on the proposed route of a new railroad to be built from east to west through our county.

If a town were to be platted in our county today perhaps it would be named after President-elect Eisenhower. This village was named after the President-elect at that time, Franklin Pierce.

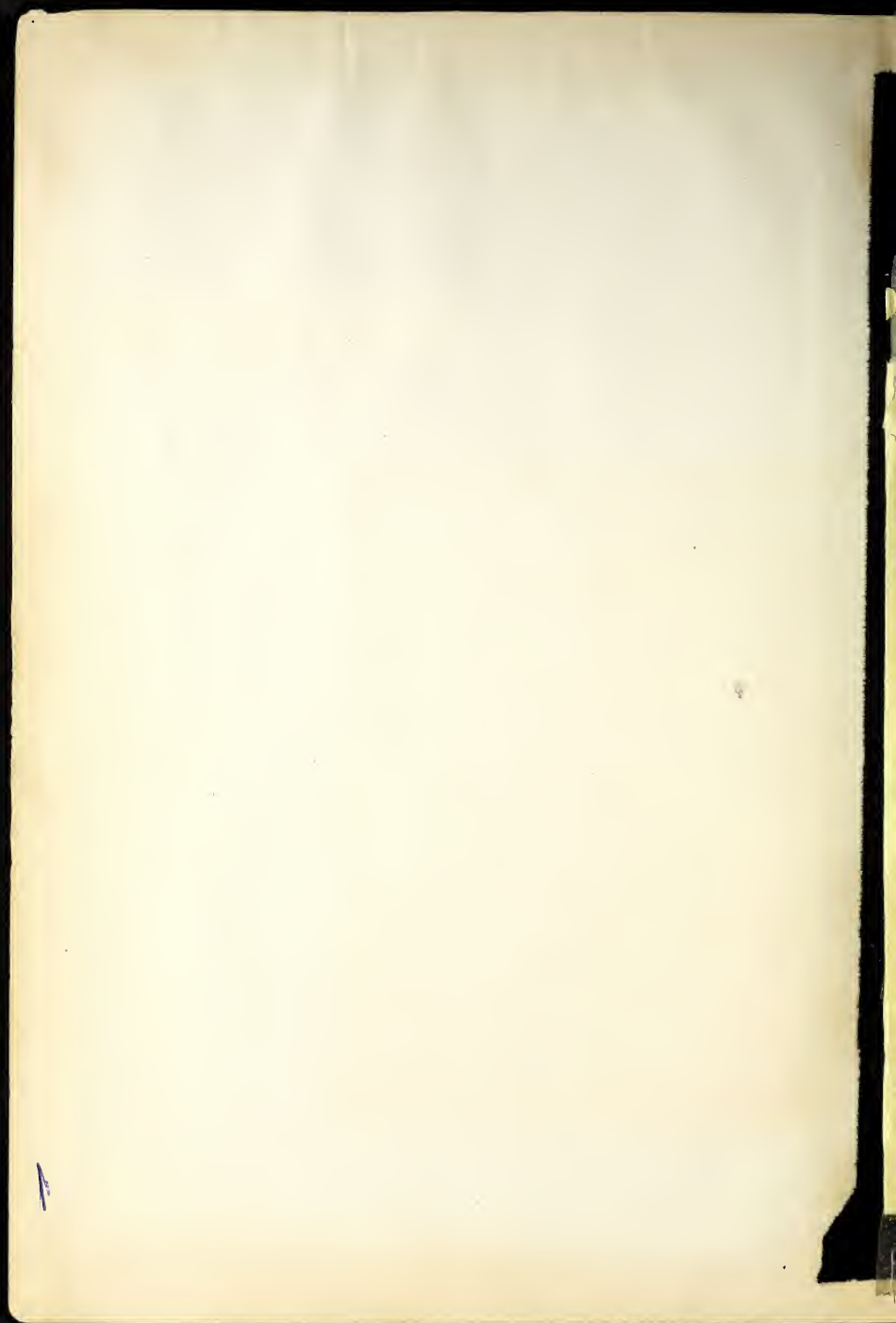
Piercetown became the first railroad town in our county. The rails of the line which is now called the Pennsylvania were laid from the east and the first passenger train reached Piercetown on September 1, 1854. The first load of freight left there sometime in October. The rails were not laid to Warsaw until 1856.

Because of its location on the railroad several factories were started at Piercetown during and immediately following the Civil

War. In 1866 Peter Conrad started a carriage and wagon factory which in a few years employed ten men and manufactured about 100 wagons and carriages annually. In 1867 L. C. Smith started a hub and spoke factory which soon had a payroll of eight men.

A visitor to Piercetown in 1873 states that in addition to the two factories mentioned above the town had a furniture factory, a stave manufactory, a flouring mill, one hardware, two drug stores, two dry goods stores, two tailors, the "Piercetown Restaurant", the "Pacific Hotel", and "Engle's Livery Stable".

In 1866 the citizens of Piercetown voted to incorporate. The community organized both a civil and a school corporation. By this time Piercetown was the second largest town in our county, second only to the county seat. In 1869-70 Piercetown built a \$12,000 school building which was the best in the county at the time. The school corporation has been abandoned since that time in favor of a township school.



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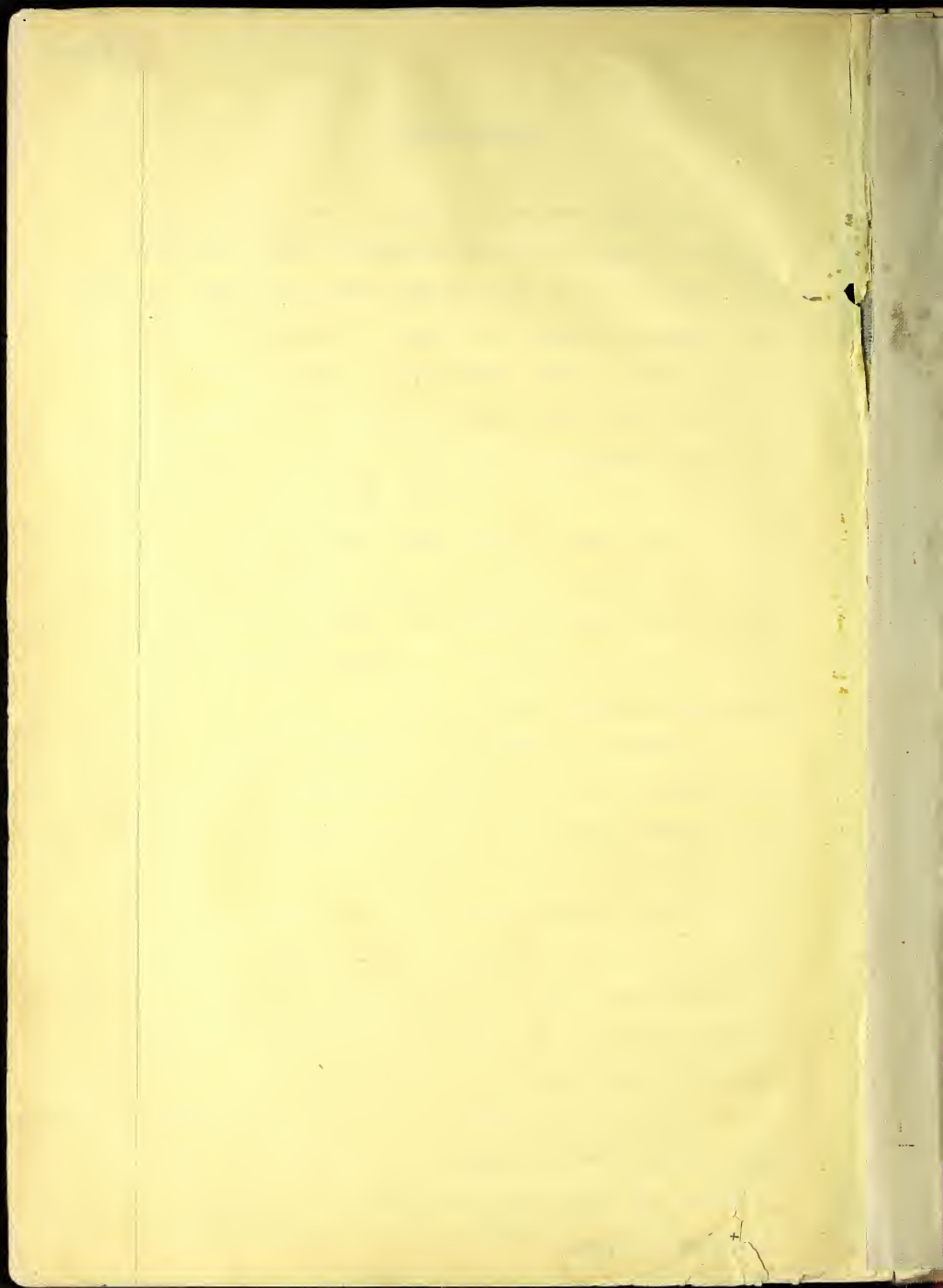
Piercet and Washington Township
Carnegie Library



Introductory

Much money was made in land in early day in this county and when a new town sprang up there was always a good chance to sell lots if the town went ahead. It appears that several attempts were made to locate Pierceton before the present site was laid out. It seems that they did not know just where the railroad would go thru. Westminster was laid out northeast of the present site of town by Christopher Lightfoot for Samuel Eby in May 1837. This town was to be east of the Sharton Ditch called the headwaters of El River. The town contained 40 lots of the usual size 4x8 rods and some of the streets were Water, Market, El, Wayne and Main. It had a square closed at the corners such as Angola has. Westminster never became a town.

Fairview was another such town. It was laid out SE of the present site of Pierceton about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile east of the cemetery. Henry Sticknell of Ellisonville, Illinois was the proprietor and Mr. Chapin was the surveyor. 45 Lots were laid out but the whole matter was dropped. In the winter of 52-53 John Butler Chapman and Lewis Keith, his father-in-law, employed Otho Means, a big red headed surveyor, to lay off a town about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile north of the present Pierceton. By the next summer they found they had missed the railroad and so they laid off Pierceton as it is now. In March, 1853 the plat was entered for taxation. The question of where the railroad was coming thru was perhaps as clouded as the present question as to where Road 30 will eventually go thru or around Warsaw.



Introductory Remarks.

This story of Pierceton which we have written is rather full of statistics and may not be very interesting in places. I did not grow up around Pierceton and in all my life I have only lived there two winters 1920-21 and 1923-24 when I was a teacher in the high school. It would take some oldtimer about town to really put some color to a history of the town and recite some interesting stories about people who lived there. The nucleus of a good history would be the clippings from the Pierceton Record about oldtimes. Real oldtimers about the town are few. Maurice Brosnahan is perhaps the last one left to tell us much of early times in Pierceton. He was for years connected with the Pierceton Record and was a store keeper of the town.

One reading the old Indianians can easily see that Pierceton was the leading town of the county outside of Warsaw for at least thirty-five years. It was a very live town politically during this time and always sent a creditable delegation to the county seat whenever any big political demonstration was to be held. Pierceton in those days was full of activity based largely on woodworking industries. This is now a thing of the past for our supply of wood has all but sadly diminished. Logs they haul to mills here today would not have been accepted seventy-five years ago. Then they were using only the best of maple, hickory, walnut, and other hard woods. Pierceton too had a factory dealing with cloth called a woolen mill where weaving and carding were done.



Early beginnings in and
around Pierceton.

Pierceton and Washington Township
Cass. Ind. 1897



A History of Pierceton.

By Geo. A. Nye.

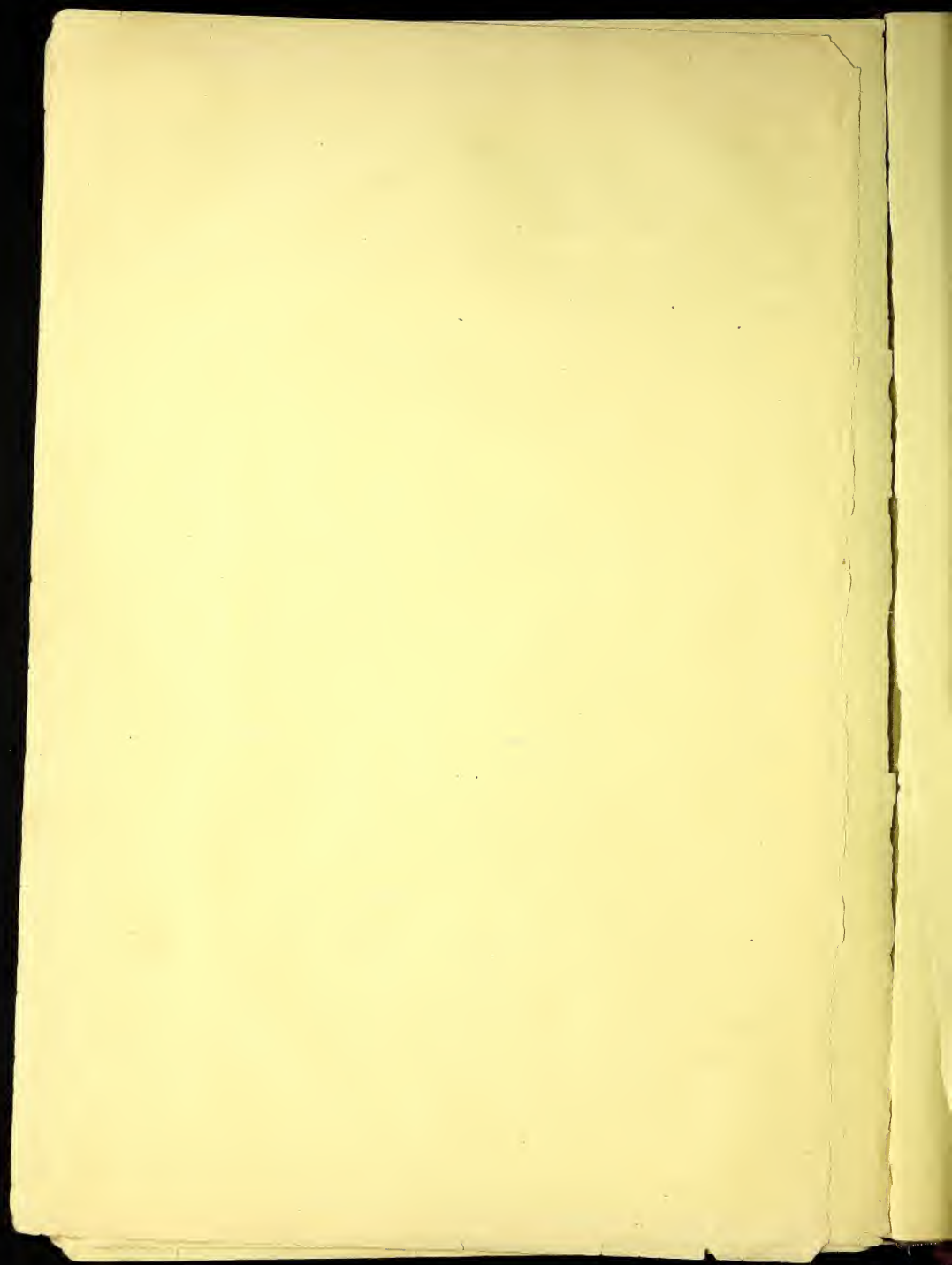
The present site of Pierceton was farm lands up until 1853-4. The old atlas of 1879 says that the town was laid out in December, 1852, by Lewis Keith and John Butler Chapman. It was at this time that Franklin Pierce was president, so the town was named Pierceton. There was an agitation to change the name to Birmingham in 1869 because postal clerks confused Pierceton and Princeton but this was not done. Some years later than 1854, ^{in 1856} ~~perhaps about 1858~~, Chapman was out in Kansas helping to keep that territory free and he became so disgusted with Pierce's and Buchanan's policy there that Chapman wrote back to ^{Lewis} Keith and told him to change the name of Pierceton to Freemont. This again was never done. It is quite likely that the name of the town will never be changed. The atlas goes on to say that Chapman started the first store ^{in Pierceton} in a log cabin north of the town limits on a farm which today (1951) would be in the northeast part of town. There was no railroad then, so he went to Fort Wayne with ox teams and hauled his ^{stock} ~~store~~ of new goods back to his store. There had been a road from Ft. Wayne to Warner's Mills ever since 1837, the road being 45 miles long and being one of the very first described in the records of the Commissioners' court. This road ~~no doubt~~ went south of Pierceton past the old Ryerson home. For ~~his~~ his goods Chapman accepted skins of animals, furs and wild-cat currency. This was true of all the early stores even until after the war of the rebellion. Farm produce was taken



in exchange for groceries. The first frame houses in town were the one in which Dr. Hays lived in 1879, ~~This was~~ on the corner of 2nd and Market streets, another ~~was~~ on First street where the Citizens Bank was in 1879, and the third ~~was~~ where Foster's Drug store was at that time.

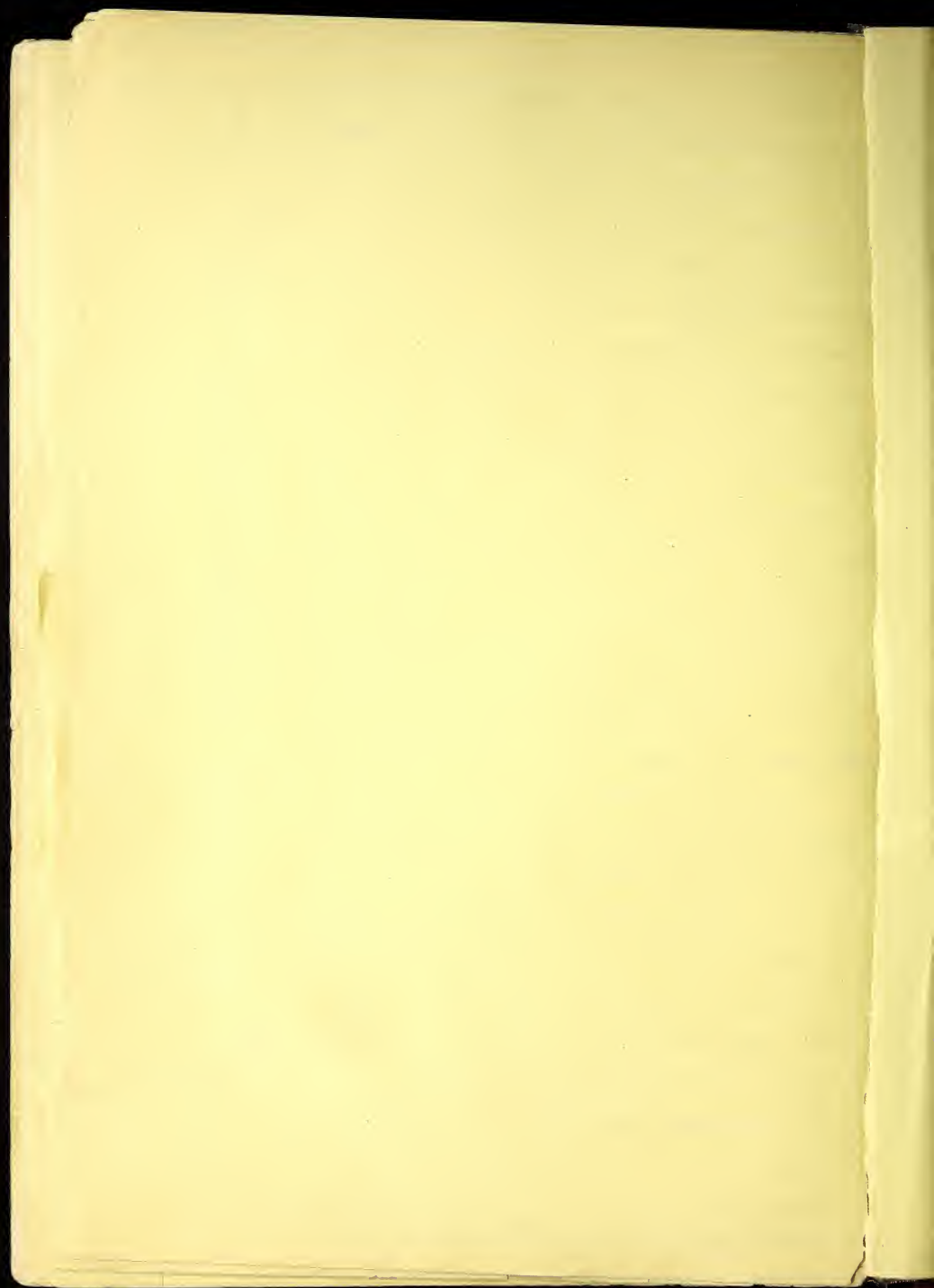
The first postoffice in Pierceton was established in 1854. It was in a frame building where the bank was in 1879. O.P. Smith was the postmaster. He served one year and then Dr. William Hayes took the office. Succeeding postmasters in Pierceton were Dr. Banta, Mr. Skinner, David Binkley, James Getty, Henry Ruth, S. M. Hayes, John Justice, and David H. Connell. Mr. Justice died while in office. It was the custom in these days when the postoffice did not serve too many people to have the office in connection with some store. Thus it was at Haye's drug store at one time. The office of postmaster has always been more or less political and so it ~~changed~~ changed with the administrations.

Pierceton was incorporated May 10, 1866. Thus at this time it was a town about 12 years old. It was the first new railroad town to be founded in the county. The Ft. Wayne and Chicago railroad was built ~~across~~ across the county in 1854-7. Trains began to run into Pierceton about 1855. These were from Ft. Wayne. Connection was not made to Chicago until a year or so later. Many Irishmen helped to construct the road. The road bed was made with mules and scoops. There was much drinking, especially after pay day, and free-for-alls were common. The pay was about \$1.50 a day. The working day was at least ten hours long and maybe twelve. The Catholic church did missionary work among the railroad laborers, putting up temporary church buildings.



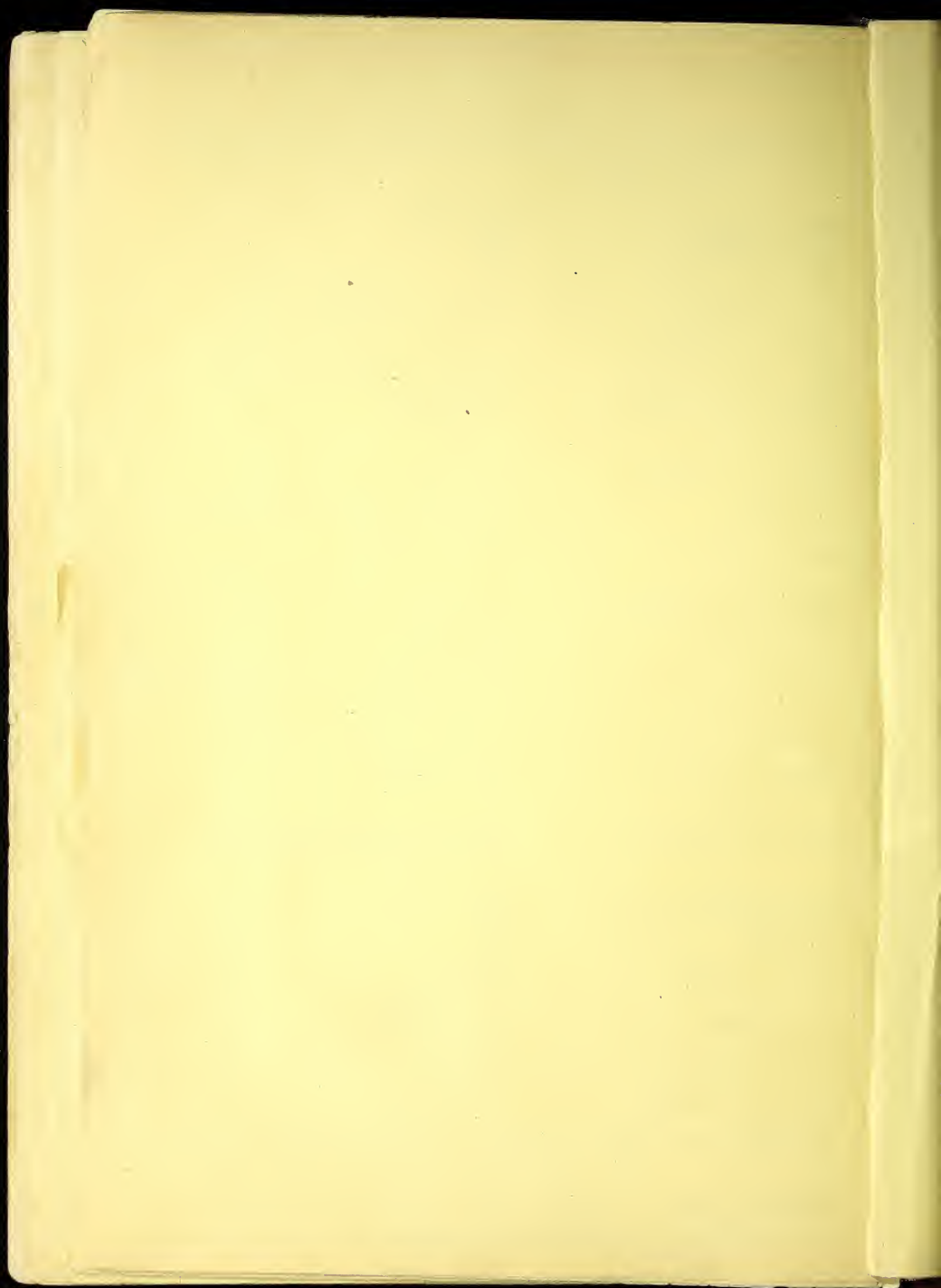
In 1879 the town of Wooster about two miles west of Pierceton on the railroad was a trading center of ~~no~~ minor importance. Since the railroad had Wooster, Ohio, on its line it had the post-office named Kosciusko. P. Brosnahan and H. E. Pollock owned the ground on the east side of this small village. P. Hoover and J. Vaness owned ground to the west. Wooster had some stores and a postoffice, a church and a schoolhouse. We read in an old paper how the county's superintendent^{McCallum} went to Wooster on the train to take part in the ceremonies marking the 1-4 last day of school. The pupils and teachers^{teachers} met him at the train and escorted him to the schoolhouse. A winding road lead from Wooster eastward to the road north of Pierceton. It crossed Deed's Creek on the farm of G. W. Dunbar just east of his house. The plat of Wooster has never^{U.S.} been vacated and the sale of property there would still be by lots³⁰. New road thirty runs just north of the tracks at this place. One going thru the village now would not believe that trains used to stop there and that it was a busy trading point.

Washington Township is scarce on lakes. The only lake entire^{n.}ly within the township is the little Froehly Lake in the SE¹/₄ of Section 15. The Ike Shanton Ditch, one of the longest in the county, has this lake as a half way point. This ditch begins south of the railroad in Section 36 and ends in Cedar Creek about seven miles from where it begins. The west part of the township drains into Deed's Creek which now is known as the Andreas Ditch and down farther as the George McCarter Ditch. It goes into ^{Little} Pike Lake at Warsaw. Ridinger Lake ^{partly} is in the northeast corner of the township and the west end of Robinson Lake juts into the township in the SE¹/₄ of Section 13. The rest of this lake lies in Whitley County. The township, as we said before, is short on lakes.



We copy from the Atlas of 1879 a list of business houses
in Pierceton at that time.

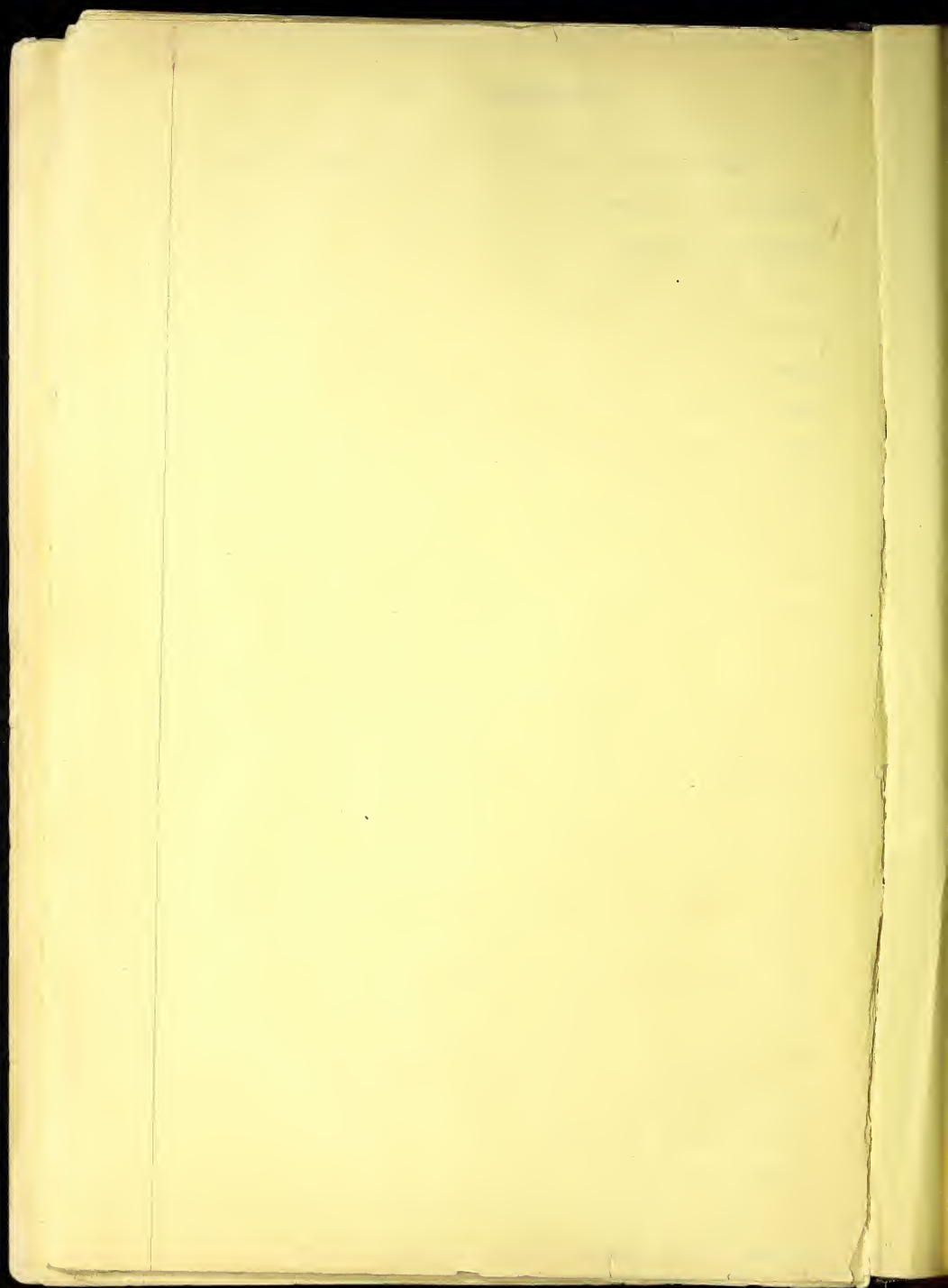
Gibson, Hirm & Co.	Dry Goods	er
R. M. Lawrence	do	
Froehly Brothers	do	
B. F. Andlauer	Tailor & Clothier	
F. V. B. Minnich and W. R. Schaeffer	Hardware & Farm Implements.	
Foster & Brother and C. G. Baker	Drug store do	
William N. Graves	Grocery	
O. Palmer	Grocery, bakery and Restaurant	
Levi Snyder	Boots & Shoes	
D. E. Moore and Mrs. M. E. Boylan	Millinery	ow
B. M. Covert	Jeweler	ec
D. H. Connell	Postmaster, Books and Stationery.	
William Fenton	Harness shop, trunks etc.	
Netter & Bros. D. Simonton	Meat market do	ec
Nichols Brothers	Agent for the railroad and for the express company.	
Levi Snyder	Shoe shop	
William VanWormer	do	
S. Widup	do	
Frank Brower	Barber	
H. Hackett	Undertaker	en,
J. M. Humphreys	Broom factory.	as
Moore & Hackett	Furniture	
Doctors were: Dr. J. P. Long, Dr. E. H. Makemson, Dr. H. O. King, Dr. William Hayes, Dr. S. D. Ammerman.		
Lawyers were: C. Clemans, John McNamara,		
J. P's were J. W. Stinson, Dan Kaylor, & Samuel Forsythe.		



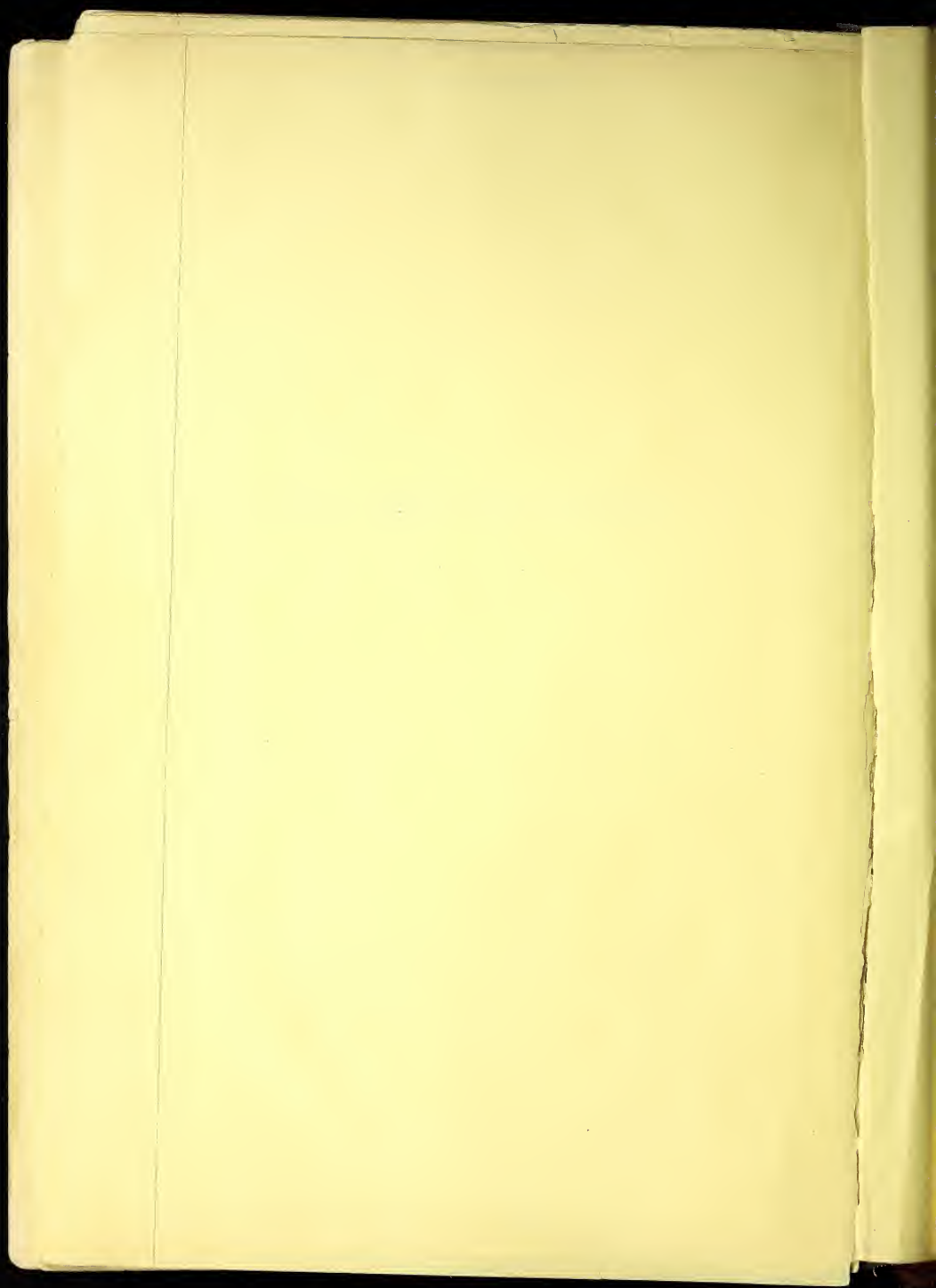
Pierceton

Pierceton is a town that covers about 160 acres of ground. It is located in the west one-half of Section 27, Township 32 North and Range 7 East. The Main Street north and south is the quarter section line. The east and west half section line goes thru town at the alley south of the depot. There is a more recent addition called Fairview which is over west of town in Section 28. It was laid out about 1916. The plat did not go over very big but recently there have been some houses built on this plat. It would have been a better setup if a road one-half a mile long had been built on the east and west half section line connecting the road west of town with the one east of town. This would have made a good main street east and west. We should like to know why this was not done but no one living now would be able to tell.

Additions have been laid off in Pierceton many years ago. Dr. Hays added several additions known as Hays first, second etc. He seems to have been the A. T. B. Kist of the town for Warsaw has about five Kist's Additions. Then there is Redkey's Addition, Ryerson's Addition, Conant & Moore's Addition, and Fairview. The later was laid out in a big hurry one day in 1916 when some man came to the surveyor's office and Mr. Summy sent the writer to help him. It was done by some out of town concern. The Pittsburgh, Ft. Wayne & Chicago Railroad company which came thru Pierceton in 1856 bought considerable ground in the town. Pierceton for the most part is laid off in blocks, each block having six or eight lots. The lots are of standard size being one chain (66 feet) wide and two chains long. The Gunter's chain was in use at the time it was laid out.



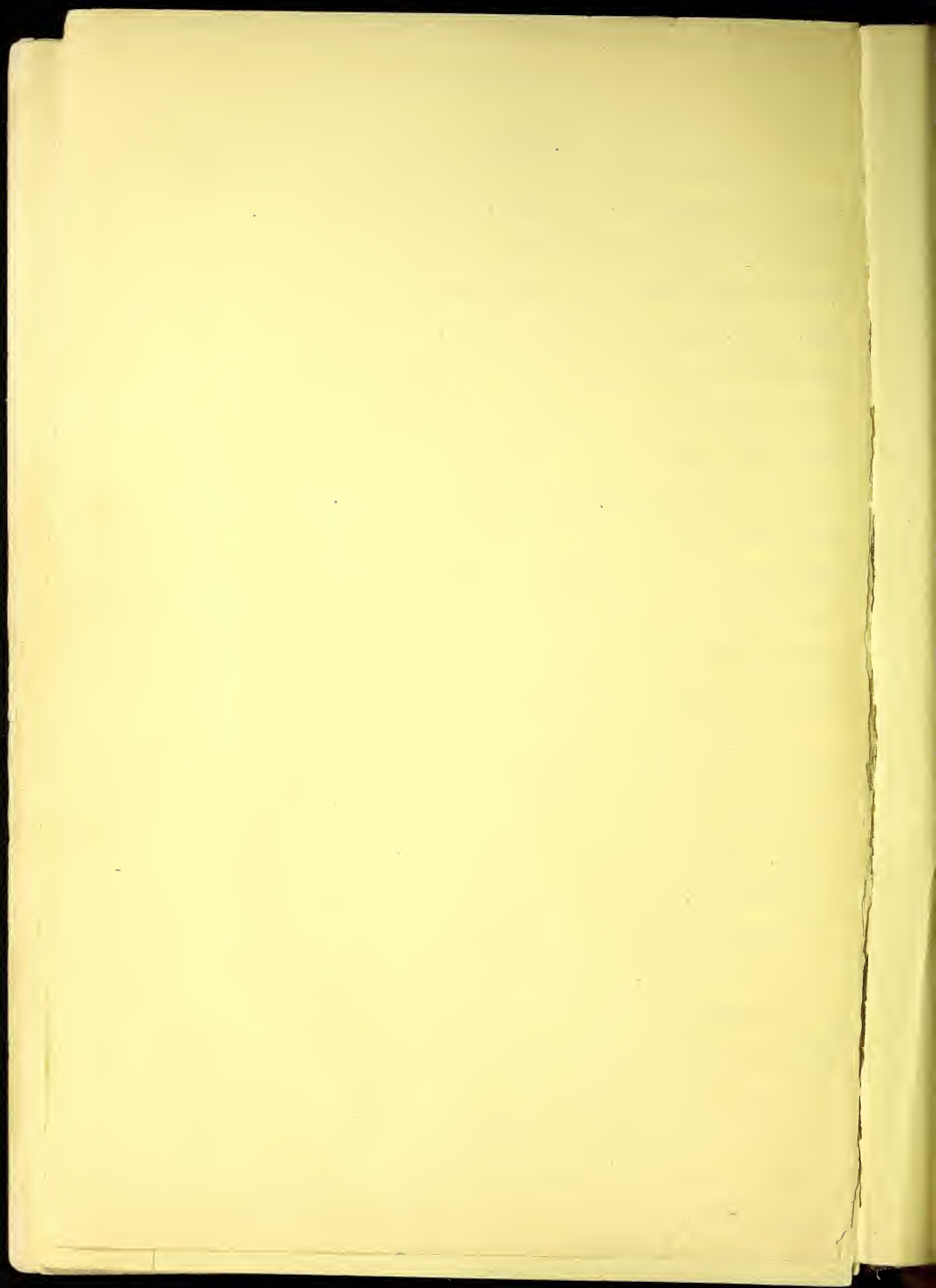
Gierceton in the 1860's and 70's.



The first town board^{of Pierceton} was made up of John Moore, Adam Simons, and Alexander Daugherty. E. T. Marshall was town marshall, town clerk and town treasurer all in one. November 5, 1866, the first school board was appointed and it consisted of Michael Murray, J. A. Shorb and John Shaffer. The total amount of taxes collected the first year was \$355.18. The town board began to cause walks to be put down and streets to be graded so that the town began to look very respectable. The town grew and was second in the county as to population for perhaps fifty years. It was the day of cheap lumber, for in early day this whole county was well wooded. Thus several industries spring up in Pierceton such as a sawmill, a furniture factory, a hub and spoke factory etc. During the e War of the Rebellion many walnut gun stocks were made at Pierceton and^{automatically} shipped to the front.

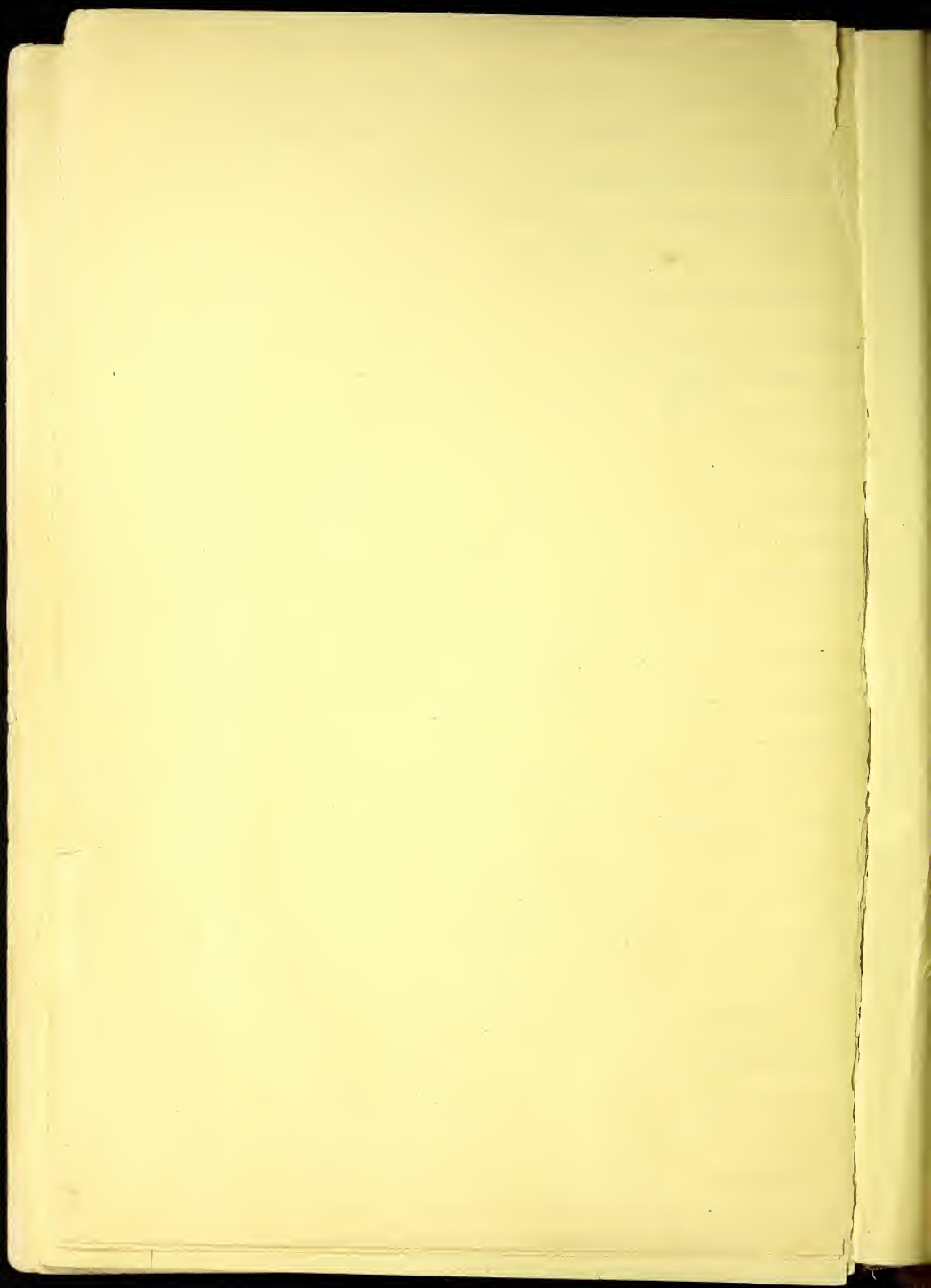
In 1864, Dr. Baker and W. C. Conant erected a frame building north of the railroad for a sash and door factory. Besides the main building there were two drying houses nearby and an engine house. After two years it was changed somewhat and furniture was manufactured. About 1864 John Moore took the place of Baker and the firm was known as Conant and Moore. In 1872 Mr. Conant sold out to Mr. Moore. In 1869 Mr. Conant built the fine square house in the south part of town where Ross Radcliff recently lived.

^{this} This furniture factory, the atlas says, employed about 100 men. The Panic of 1873 caused the mill to close down. Oldtimers around Pierceton may remember the whistle at this mill and how it used to call out the fire department when the town was endangered by fire. *See diagram for 1872 has picture of the mill.*

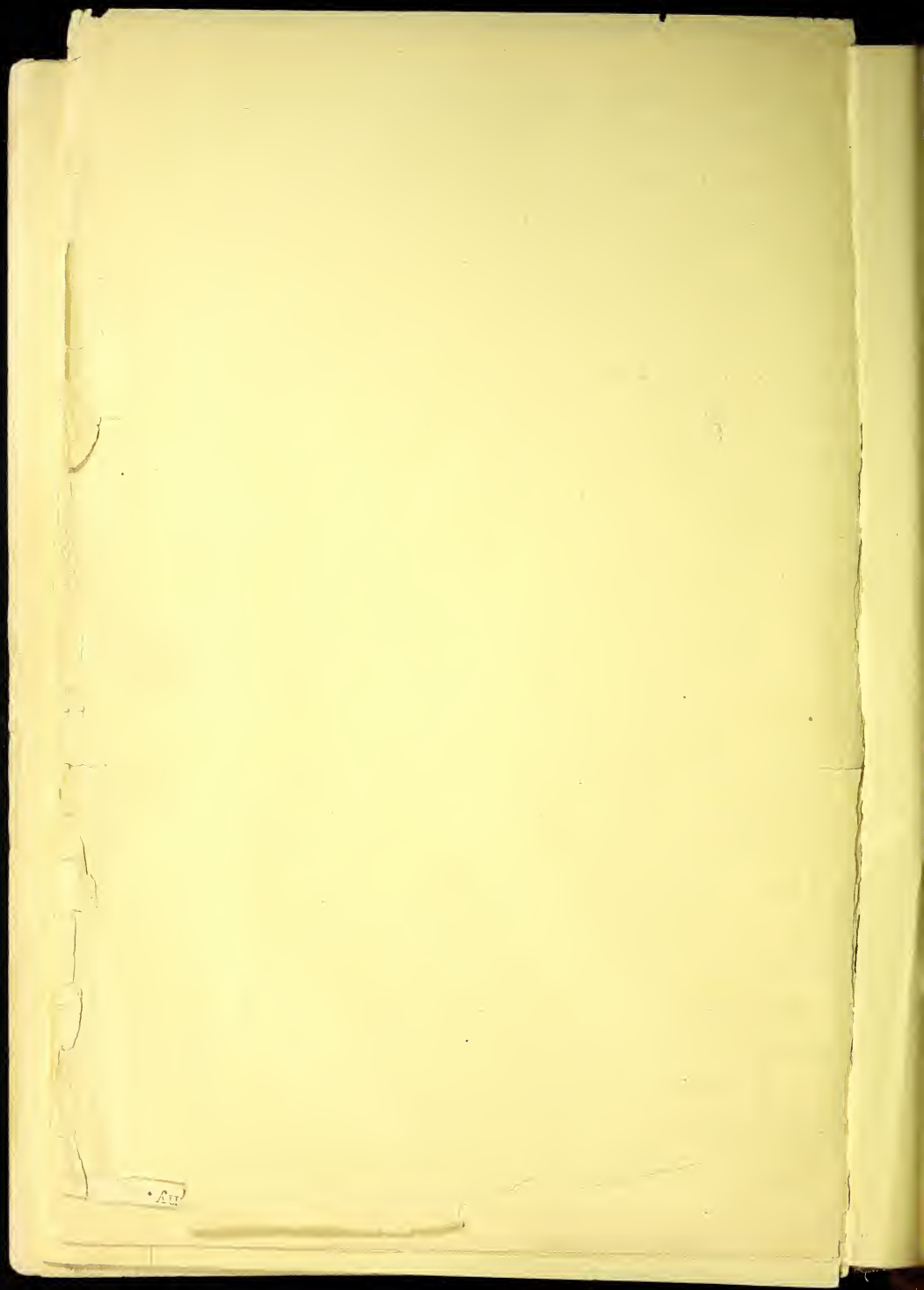


Five denominations at least have been responsible for the churches in Pierceton. They are the Presbyterians, the Methodists, the Universalists, the Baptists and the Catholics. The First Presbyterian Church in Pierceton was organized on the 9th day of January, 1857. This was at the Crawford schoolhouse. The committee entrusted with the organization consisted of J. N. Swan and W. B. Wilson, ministers, and John Allen and Robert Cowan as elders. William Wilson was elected Ruling Elder. The first stated supply of the church was W. B. Wilson who was minister at Warsaw. In 1865 he was succeeded by M. H. Blair. In 1872 Rev. A. G. Martin became the minister. In 1879 Rev. F. M. Elliott was the pastor. He increased the membership by 107 making it 163. The congregation met in various schoolhouses, the Crawford, the Ryerson and the town schoolhouse for several years. In 1863 they erected a church building. In 1879 most of the older members had passed away but Mr. Menzie, aged 90, a very devout member, was still attending.

The Methodist Church in Pierceton was started in 1854 at the depot. Rev. Camp officiated at this first meeting. Meetings were held at the home of Robert McNeal. After a year or so the congregation met at the schoolhouse. About 1862 the first church was built at a cost of \$1500.00. Rev. McElwee was the pastor in 1879. The Universalist church was started in 1865 and prospered for some years and then interest began to wane and the meetings stopped. In 1863 the Catholics started a church. In 1864 they erected a church home at a cost of \$1800.00. This church has lived thru the years and to-day (1951) is attended by many people some of whom live outside of town. The Baptists now have a church in town and have had for many years.

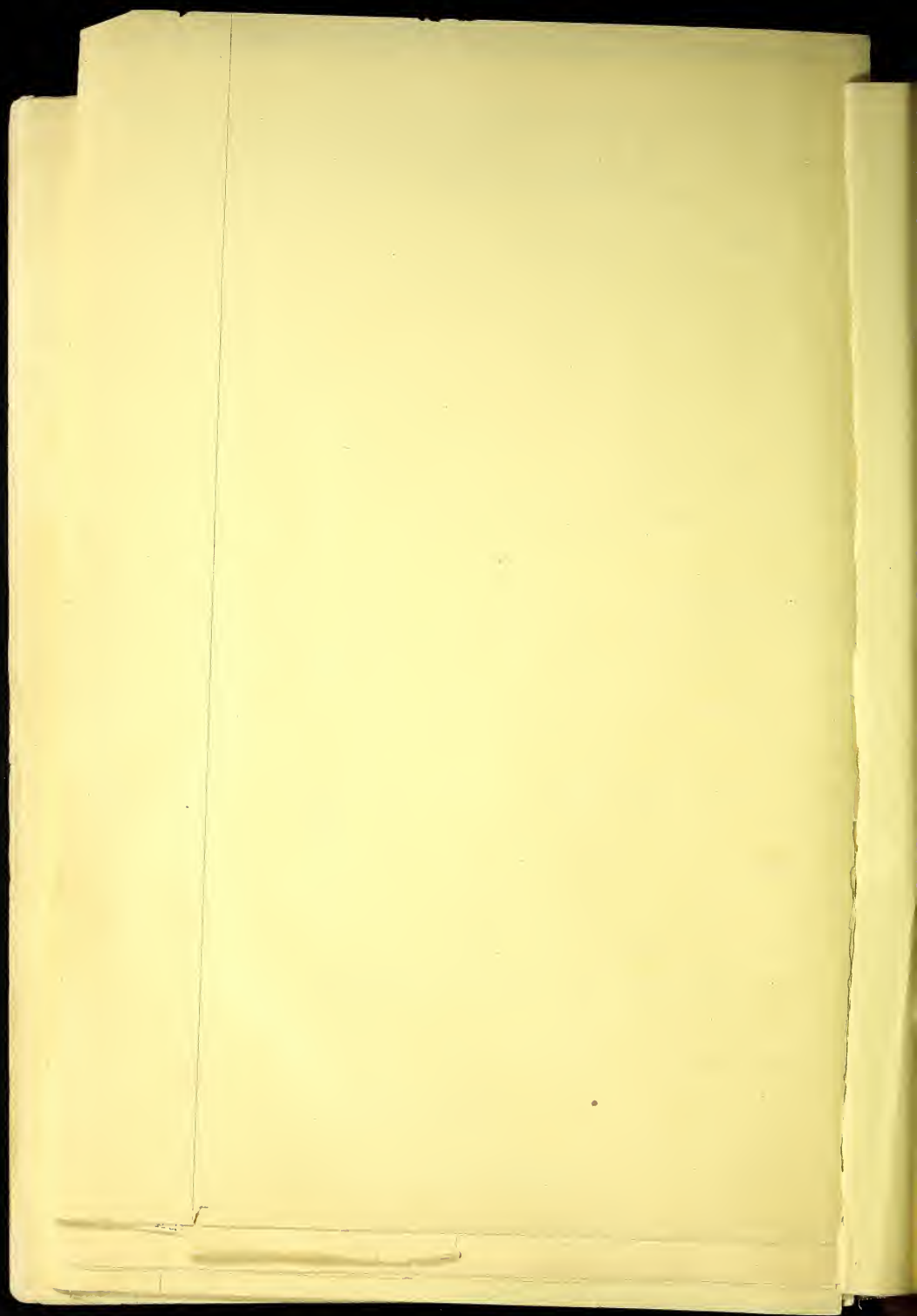


The Odd Fellows Lodge in Pierceton was chartered May 16, 1866. It first met in the upstairs of a building owned by Dr. William Hayes. Charter members were D. M. Shoemaker, N. B. Morlan, Jacob Klingel, J. W. Shaffer, Eli Hayden and Grooge Watts. August 26th, 1878, a big fire in the town destroyed their lodge rooms. After a new building was completed the lodge again rented the upper part. In 1879 the officers of the lodge were David French, Samuel Snodgrass, H. H. Shank, Levi Snyder, J. M. Humphreys, William Spayde, Daniel Hoover and William Snyder. Enterprise Encampment 103 was organized May 15, 1870. Eleven charter members were Wm H. Spayde, S. M. Hayes, E. G. Eddy, Jacob Klingel, Levi Snyder, F. G. Frary, J. W. Shaffer, J. W. Stinson, J. B. Dodge, C. H. Ketcham, and H. C. Milice. The Masonic Lodge was founded in Pierceton June 20, 1868. There were ten charter members. The first officers were Henry E. Sweet, William A. Babcock, John W. Waldo, Dwight P. Nichols, William Sherburn, Jerome Potter, Uriah Ruch, and David Johnson. In 1879 the lodge had forty-four members. The lodge room then was in the Hayes Block. The officers in 1879 were Alfred Ale, J. G. Walde, R. M. Lawrence, F. B. V. Minnich, Hiram Finton, W. N. Graves and Josiah Trump. These were the days before there ^{were} ~~was~~ any Elks, Moose or Eagles. These more modern lodges sprang up about the beginning of this century. The Masonic Lodge will no doubt live but the membership in the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias, the Redmen, and other older lodges is decreasing. This might not be true so noticeably in the larger places, but is true of the smaller towns. Years ago there were lodges at Packerton, Sevastopol, Atwood, etc. but these have practically disappeared. The idea connected the balcony or lodge seems to call for more social life than these lanterns. It all went over as follows. However, we are not a member of.



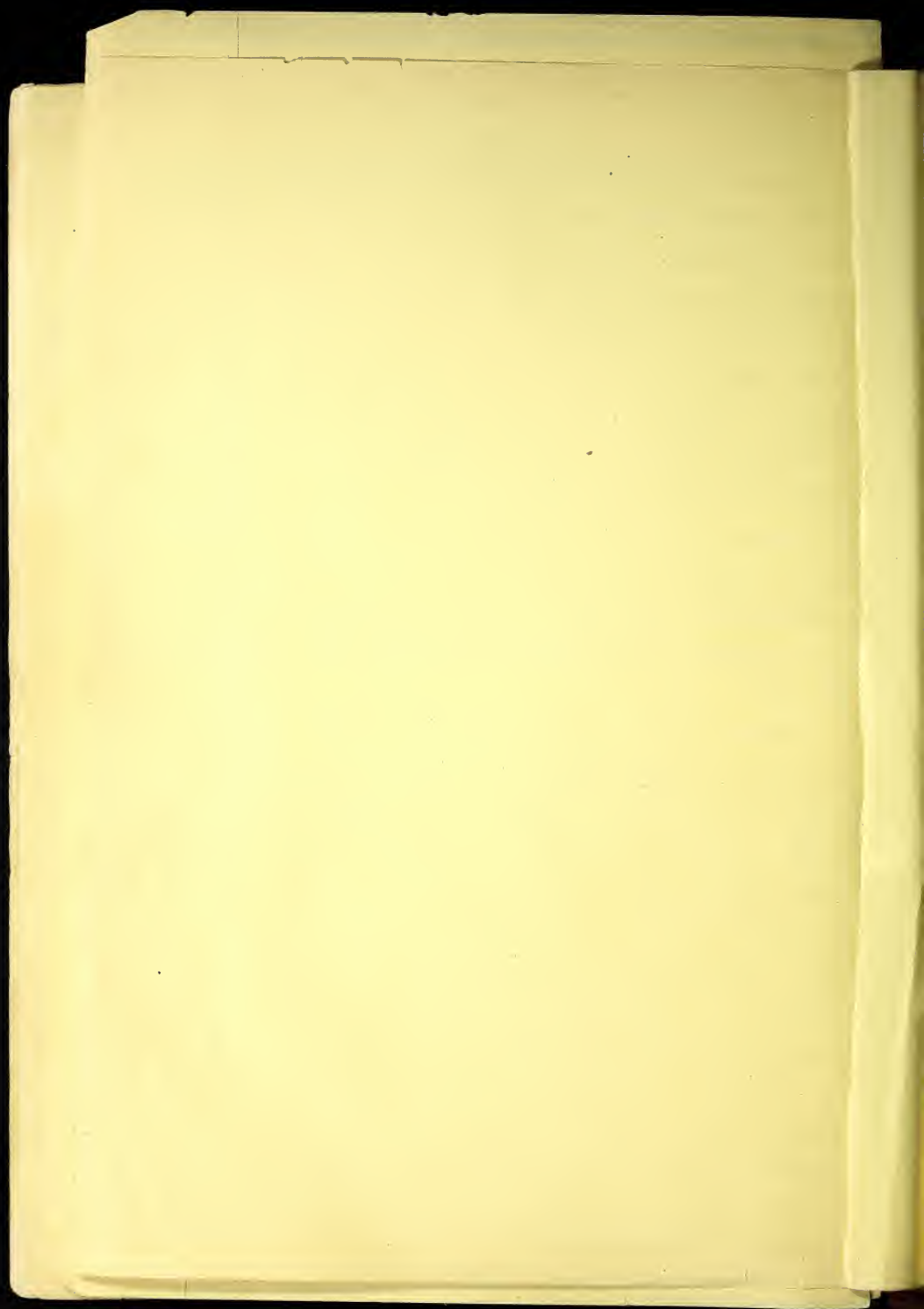
For June 11, 1868 the correspondent writes about Mr. Conant building a fine new house and about some men building a church where the Presbyterian Church is now. building for the Universalists. G. W. Ryerson, Samuel Galbreath, S. M. Hayes, and Jacon Phillips were some of them. The design of the church is very pretty and convenient. When completed it will be one of the finest frame churches in Northern Indiana. The exterior is to be an imitation of stone and beautiful spires are to run up to a distance of 112 feet. The estimated cost is to be about \$8000.00. The July 16th issue says that E. W. Perkins or T. N. Baker, the postmaster, will take subscriptions in Pierceton for the paper. The Klu Klux Klan in 1868 were interested in disturbing any meeting where the republicans were in charge. An old fashioned Republican rally was held in Warsaw Tuesday September 22, 1868 and Pierceton sent over a big delegation. General William H. Gibson, the most eloquent orator since the days of Tom Corwin, was to be one of the speakers. General Nathan Kimball, known to his men as Old Fighting Nat, the only general who whipped Stonewall Jackson, was to be there. Generals Dick DeHart and Milo S. Hascall were expected to speak. A silk prize banner was to be given ^{to} the township with the most in line compared to their population. Bronson's Band from Warsaw, Reids band from Etna Green, and other bands from Leesburg, Pierceton and Liberty Hills were to be in the parade as well as the Lake City Glee Club. The Lake City Artillery in charge of Hank June will start the day with a 21 gun salute and later ^{will} be in the parade. The Grant Tanners, commanded by Andy Milice, will be in uniform. A mounted escort in charge of Samuel Poucher will be on duty all day. At night there was to be a torch light parade with a speech from the balcony of the Kirtley ^{Hotel} ~~which~~ ^{Hotel} will be illuminated with jack-o-lanterns. It all went over as planned. Etna Twp got the banner.

Washington is a place of interest

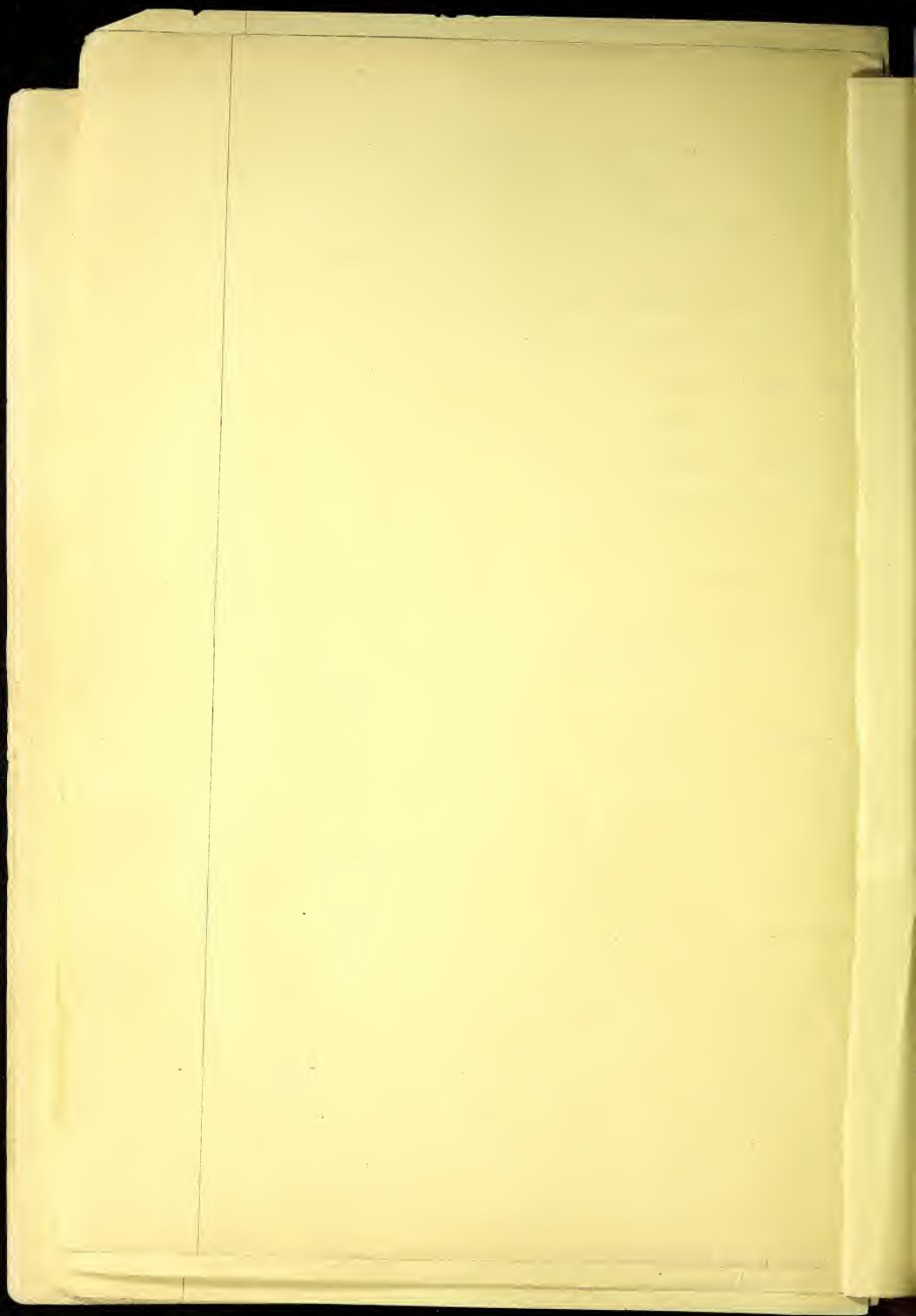


And so we see that Pierceton, during the Civil War and for several years after, was a very busy manufacturing center along the new railroad. From morning till evening the sound of the sawmills and planing mills could be heard. Children played in the log yards and finished up with a swim in Deed's Creek which is not very far away to the south or to the west, whichever direction they decided on. From accounts in the Indianian, Pierceton, like Warsaw, was more or less overrun with saloons, which did not contribute to the moral welfare of the town. One saloon in Pierceton became so obnoxious that the women of the town visited the place and dumped out a lot of liquor into the gutter. In a trial held later the women were cleared on the grounds of extinguishing a nuisance. The old German who ran the place left town between two days.

Every town along the railroad had men who bought up grain. In Pierceton Samuel Snyder was in this business. In the year ending August, 1878, he bought and sold forty thousand bushels of wheat. He rented the elevator at Balliet's & Co. flour mill. Gibson, Hirn & Co. also bought grain. They rented a store room at the depot in which to store it. They shipped much of it to Baltimore & Philadelphia. The Citizen's Bank was first started on November 1st, 1876. William M. O'Brien was president, William H. Spayde was the first cashier, F. V. B. Minnich and William J. Graham were the first directors. The bank filled a great need in the business life of the town. Except for a few years during the depression of the 1930's, Pierceton has always had a bank since November, 1876. Many banks failed in these depression years and the bank at Pierceton was one of these.



D. P. Nichols, who was station agent at Pierceton beginning in 1855, said at that time that the railroad reached that town May 25th 1853 and that the town plat was surveyed the next January. A. A. Bainbridge was the first agent for the railroad company. April 1, 1855 Nichols succeeded him and served in that capacity until January 5th 1878 a period of about twenty-three years. The ~~first~~ first station house and freight office was a one-story frame 20 x 30 feet which cost about \$125.00. The first passenger reached Pierceton September 1st 1854. The engine was named The Plymouth. The first ~~freight~~ freight left Pierceton in October 1854. It was less than a carload and contained merchandise. The road was completed to Warsaw, Nichols says, in November 1854 and soon thereafter a station was built there. It was a cheap wooden station and burned down in 1875. At Warsaw ^{W. A. Montford} ~~George Leon~~ was the first agent. Nichols became agent at Warsaw in 1878. The first train over this road arrived at Plymouth November 11, 1856. This was important for connection was made there for Peru and Indianapolis. It took another year to get the line built to Chicago. Plymouth was the first division point on the line. (Note). We dislike to differ with Mr. Nichols but according to the Indianians of the day the first train left Warsaw in the fall of 1856. It is quite likely he may be right with respect to Pierceton for the stretch from Pierceton to Warsaw was a difficult stretch to build and may have taken two years. The gravel pit at Winona Lake, then Eagle Lake, furnished much gravel and they needed it for fills. Clark Holbrook ^{once said} ~~says~~ the hill thru their old farm was called ^{first of the} turkey hill because the trains went so slow going east that the brakemen could get off the train and capture a few turkeys and then get on the caboose. This might be taken with a grain of salt.



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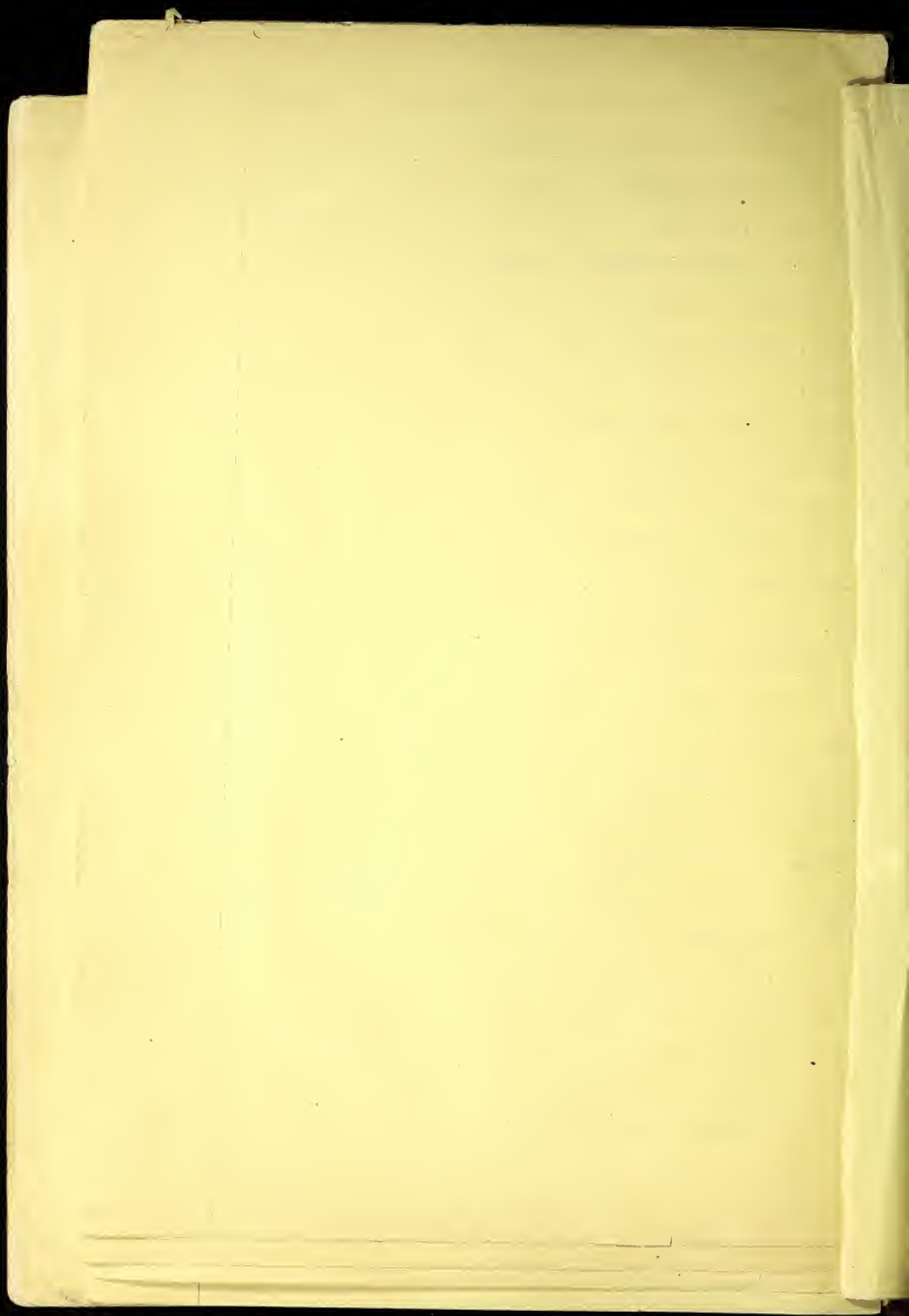
In studying an old map of 1866 of the county we find a map of Pierceton on the border. It shows the grist mill in the east part of town where it is now. It was then run by Michael Murray. Across the tracks to the north was the furniture factory of Conant & Moore. Robert McNeal owned a rather large tract west of the grist mill. A blacksmith shop and carriage shop is shown south of the present library. In the southwest part of town there was a cooper shop on Lot 1 of Block 4 and not far away was school No. 4 on Lot 5 of Block 3. This solves the problem of school No. 4. On Lot 4 of Block 6 east a block or so from the present Legion Hall there was a tannery. A. E. Downs had a tannery in town at this time. Water tanks are shown north of the depot. North of the railroad facing the main street there was a saloon on Lot 6 of Block 12. Next to it on Lot 7 was a hardware store. The M. E. Church is shown on its present site and there was a store across the street to the south. There was a store on Lot 8 of Block 1 and a cabinet shop on Lot 3 of Block 2. These were in the northwest part of town. The northeast part according to this map had few houses. There was a sawmill on Lots 3 & 4 of Block 4 and another on Lot 4 of Block 9. The present Baptist church was then the Presbyterian Church. It is on Lot 4 of Blk 16. Opposite the street and some few lots north of the M.E. church is shown a cooper shop. The Woolen Mills were in Block 11 on Lots 3-4-5-6. The Catholic church is shown on its present site. Just north of the tracks on the west side of the street there was a cabinet shop. J. A. Shorb lived in the south part of town and owned all of Block 5. At Wooster Levi L. Baker had a grocery and so did Samuel Riddle. Ann M. Baker had a boarding house there and Tunis VanVleet was a farmer next to town.



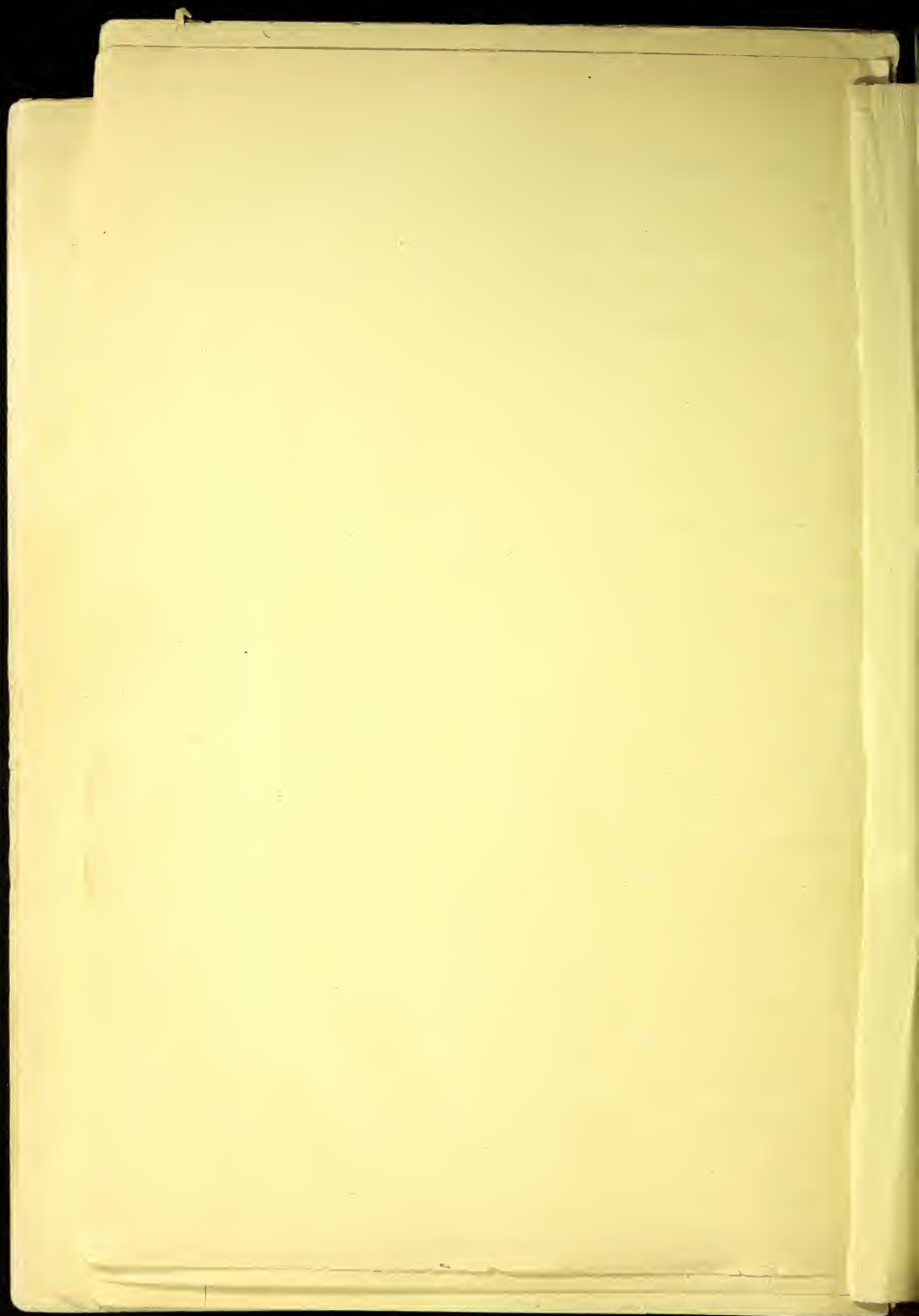
From this Map of 1866 we also find that the Ryerson School was No. 12 as we guessed it must have been and that it was on the south side of the old angling road west of Ryerson's sawmill and just on this side (east side) of the ~~see~~ section line of Sec. 34. This old map also shows the Moore school No. 9 as being at the West ha- center of the west one-half of section 22 at the SE corner of the road intersection. This must have been the old school before one was built farther north and on the west side of the road. This old school site was at the NW corner of the J. Griffith 80. Land around Pierceton in 1866 was owned by the following people. C. Jackson owned 244 acres west of town later owned by Matchett. South of this S. Reed owned 160 and F. Evans the same amount. To the north Hannah C. Warshing owned a farm. To the northeast R. Reed had 160 and A. Hoover 320 to the east. W. Shelburn owned 55 acres out east and J. S. Spayde had 96 acres east of town. South of town George Ryerson had 156 acres. Prominent farmers in Washington Township at this time were David Beard, Margaret Bussing, A. Brown, Daniel Brown, Daniel Brallier, G. W. Clover, G. W. Dunlap, J. S. Doke, Samuel Firestone, Alexander Galbreath, J. Galbreath, J. E. Hayden, Alfred Hoover, James Humphreys, J. Hart, Daniel Hoover, S. S. Leedy, Edwin B. Leedy, John Menzie, Archibald Menzie, Jacob Phillips, Jacob Stinson, John Shamley, Evert VanCuren, Daniel VanNess and Joseph Warner. Doctors in town in 1866 were William Hayes, ^{FATHER OF U.S. VICE PRESIDENT THOMAS R. MARSHALL} D. M. Marshall and J. R. Baker. General stores were kept by T. M. Murray, John A. Shorb and William H. Spayde. Minnich Brother had a hardware store, Thomas Graven ran the hotel, Ira Ryerson and J. H. Lisle were each in the lumber business, L. Lampson made harness, J. W. Shaffer made wagons, Waldo & Brested, Levi Snyder, and Hamilton & Dudley were in the boot and shoe



business, E. G. Eddy and John Lightfoot were engineers, T. D. Doke was in the livery business, D. Litchenwalter was a justice of the peace, Crawford & Baker and Getty & Sherman had grocery stores, H. F. Davis was a carpenter, J. B. Skinner dealt in tinware and stoves, Snyder and Hemmick had a furniture store, Dwight P. Nichols was agent for the railroad and also had the express office, Samuel Forsythe was a butcher, Lewis Keith was a farmer near town. A. B. Downs was a tanner, and D. W. Phillips and W. H. Moyston each ran a saloon. These were the days of the hand pumper for fires and Pierceton had a big fire in the late 1860's. Cisterns had to be built at strategic corners and these kept full of water for an emergency. These were the days of wooden sidewalks and cobble stone gutters if they had any at all. Little money was in circulation and merchants took farm produce for their goods. Pierceton in 1866 no doubt was made up mostly of frame store buildings heated with stoves in which wood was burnt and lighted with candles or kerosene lamps. At night the town was dark so that a person venturing forth to town would have to take a lantern to guide them. Children went to subscription schools where their parents paid a certain fee for the ten weeks course. School was held at somebody's home or maybe ⁱⁿ an empty store room ^{which} would be rented for the term. It was also a day of religious revivals. People became really in earnest about their salvation, as they should today, and led others to the altar where they repented of their sins and decided to lead a ^better life. Without the radio, without the picture show, without electricity to do so many things in the home today, without furnace heat, without comfortable beds, without hospital service when needed, without paved streets, without sewers, without libraries we wonder how the people in Pierceton lived in 1866



Michael Murray, at an initial cost of \$18000, erected the first flour mill in Pierceton. This was in 1862. The first story of the 3½ story mill was made of stone. After eight years Murray sold it to Stoufs and Bowman. By January, 1877, it had passed into the hands of Balliet & Co. They added a new stone engine room and placed a metal roof on the building. In 1865 Eli & Phillip Fluke put up a planing mill in the north-west part of town near the railroad. A year later they added a sawmill. In 1868 fire destroyed the whole setup, but other mills were built on the same site by Joanathan Thacher and W. H. Cornell. It then passed thru several hands and was once owned by Gabe Lesh. By 1877 Douglas & Cornell were the proprietors. In 1877 was the day of many mills over Kosciusko County and the next twenty years marked the hay heyday of small communities such as Packerton, Millwood, Hepton, etc. Lesh was principal of the Pierceton Schools about 1877 as a man 34 years old. In 1876 he built the bending factory in Warsaw, *which made plow handles.* The mill at Pierceton gave employment to 8 men besides several log haulers. Fine timber from surrounding farms was hauled to town. Snow was desirable in the winter, for then the logging could be done on bobsleds and the logs were much easier to load and get out of the woods. Log haulers furnished their own team. There was sometimes some competition among them and some have been known to get out to the woods very early and lay their whip on a certain log. This meant that that was their log to haul to the mill. After the logs had been unloaded and measured up by the mill foreman, the logs were stamped on the end and became the property of the mill. Band saws and circular saws were used * for sawing the logs, the band saw being able to handle a log the best. 4



Page 1

In the Indianian for April 2, 1868 a correspondent from Pierceton says that the town is to see a big debate staged by Rev. N. Carry of South Bend, a Universalist, and ^{an} ~~and~~ M. E. minister Rev. M. Mahin of Logansport. The Universalist had established a church at Pierceton to which many belonged. According to the encyclopedia universalism is a belief in the final triumph of good over evil in the universe. It is a belief that God is pledged by his goodness and omnipotence to put an end to sin and ultimately to save the whole family of mankind. It is the doctrine that the destiny of mankind is progress onward and upward forever; that always before man is a chance to develop and that always in man is a power to unfold, always a time and a place in which to grow, and always in man the power to respond to the opportunity. The first Universalist in the U.S.A. was John Murray who came over here from England in 1770. The first real organization of churches with the name Universalists was effected in the town of Oxford, Massachusetts in 1785. The debate ^{in Pierceton} ~~was~~ on the ultimate holiness of mankind and the endless punishment of the wicked. It must have been quite a debate. The animated discussions lasted four days and a half before certain moderators. Rev. McMahan was a man of fine ability and a good logician. He sustained the doctrine of endl^ess punishment with credit to himself and enthusiasm for the cause. Rev. Carry ^{was} ~~is~~ a fluent, happy speaker and his ability was well known in Pierceton. Dr. Hayes presented him with a beautiful bible accompanied by several legal tenders. The balance of the items for April 9, 1868 is taken up with an election for a justice of the Peace in which the republicans won over a whiskey ring that had a man up for this place. Politics were hot in Pierceton at this time.



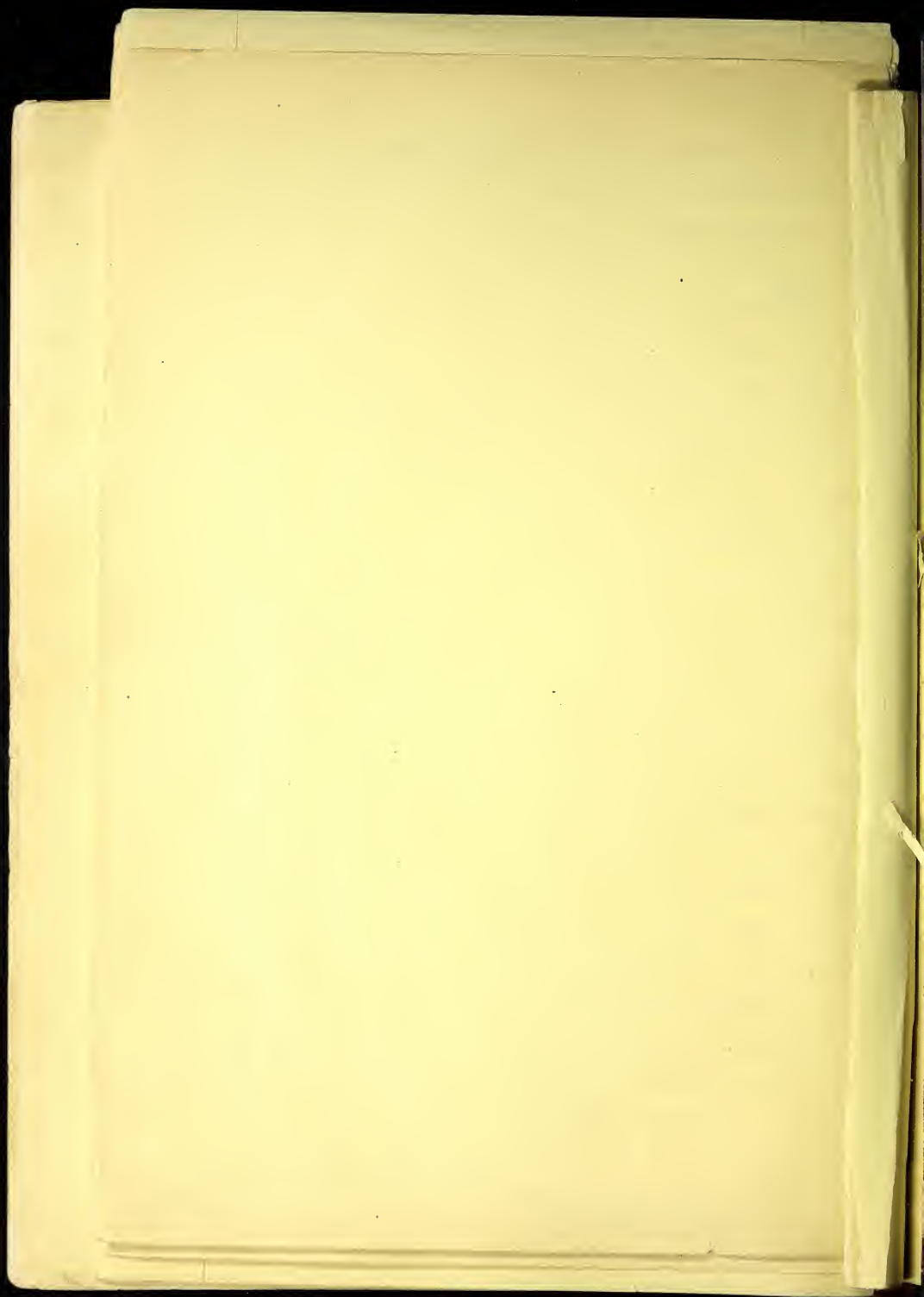
In 1872 a building was erected for use as a chair factory. This was done by B. W. Kirkland. An engine and boiler room was built near by. Four men were employed in this factory. Shumaker & Humphreys had another rustic chair factory in the north part of town. They used hickory and made rustic chairs, vases, hanging-baskets, flower stands and rustic ornaments. In the fall of 1866 Peter Conrad started making wagons in Pierceton. He erected several frame buildings for this purpose. From the second story of one was an inclined plane for lowering the finished wagons and buggies. He employed 8 to 10 men and turned out about 100 vehicles a year. The pioneers in this business in Northern Indiana were the Studebaker Brothers at South Bend. Conrad and Oram farm wagons were used very largely in this county for fifty years, and one can still find the remains of some of them in some of the sheds about the county. Conrads took the prize at the county fair for several years. Another builder of wagons and carriages at Pierceton was M. Rush, who had a place at that time just north of the Central Hotel. He employed from 3 to 5 men and turned out about 60 vehicles a year. James Atchinson had a wagon factory which later was owned by Runyan and Fashbaugh. In 1876 F.V.B. Minnich began the manufacture of shovel plows. In connection with this he had a tin and metal shop. He made a speciality of tin and sheet iron roofing. Frary & Murray had a wool~~len~~ mills in Pierceton. The building was four stories high with an engine and dye room. 20 people were employed and they made as high as 300 yards of cloth per day. L. C. Smith had a hub and spoke factory. 8 men were employed and the hubs and spokes were bought by Chicago firms.



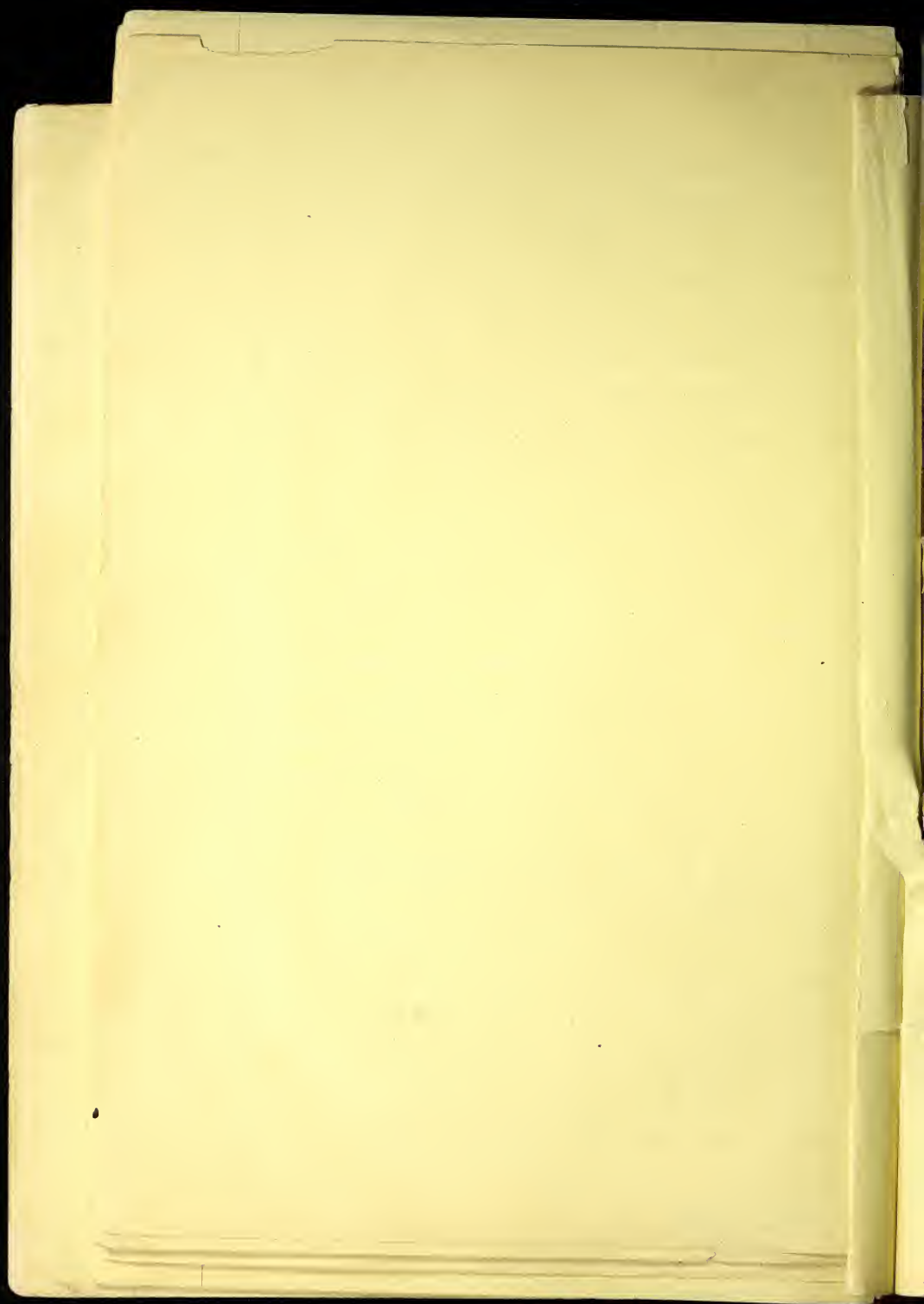
Pierceton in 1879.



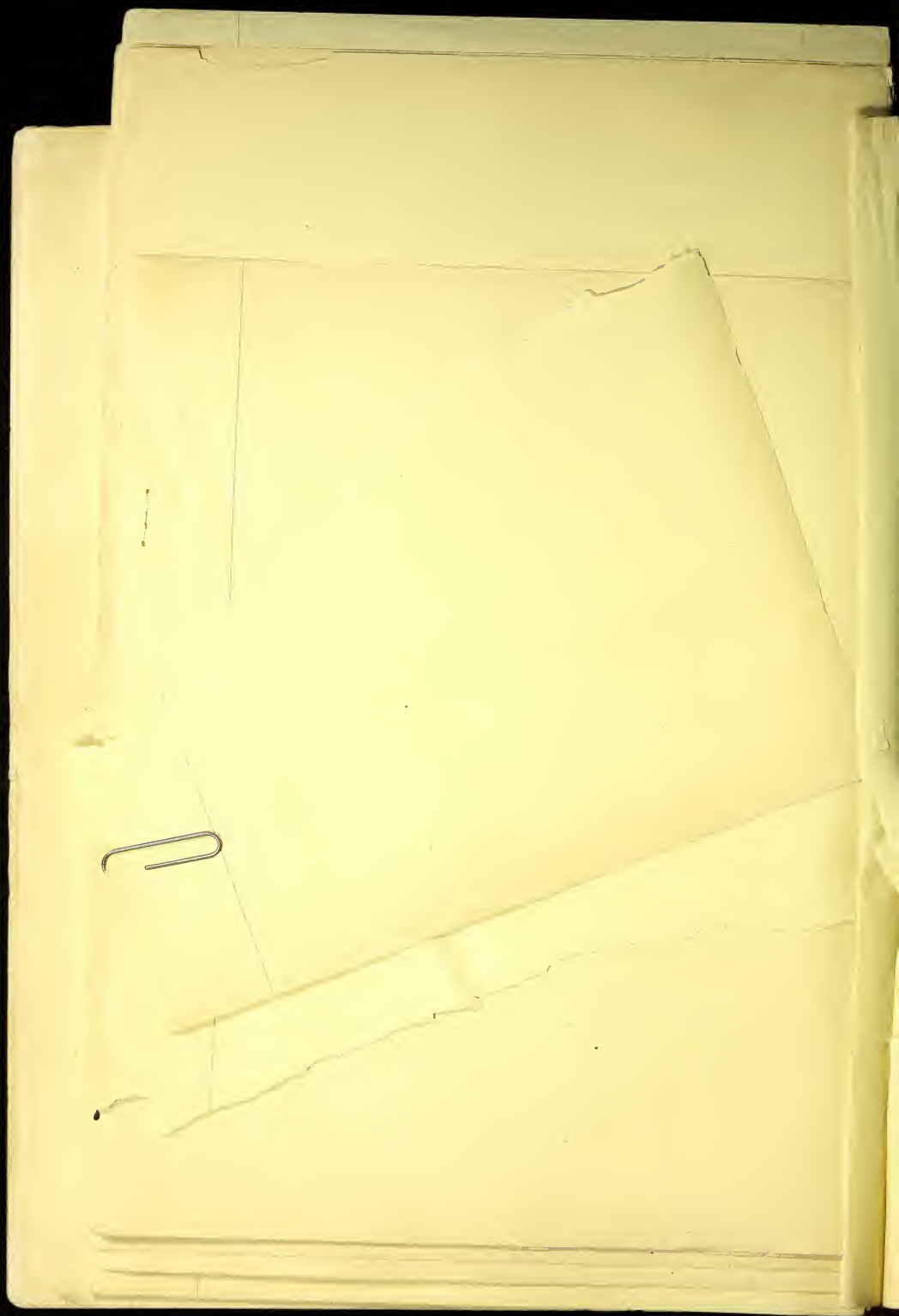
In the township history in the old atlas we find that the first schoolhouse in Washington Township was a log school on the farm of William Moore in 1840. Adam Laing taught the first term there. It was a subscription school where each student had to pay and this ^{cost} was met by his parents. Andrew and Abner Makenson were boys who attended this school. The second schoolhouse was erected near the home of John Ryerson on Deed's Creek south of the future site of Pierceton a mile. Mrs. William H. Spayde and Ira Ryerson were two of the pupils there. By 1879 there were eleven schools in Washington Township and 506 pupils were enrolled. The Moore school was just north of town on the west side of the road. It was old No. 9 in the center of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 22. In 1879 the land around the town of Pierceton was owned by ~~the~~ William C. Matchett on the west for a mile, by M. L. Barbour to the northwest, by Baker, Gray and Shorb on the north, by S. Reed to the northeast, by Andreas and Spayde to the southeast, and by Ryersons to the south. The old road past Ryerson's mill ran north of west towards Warsaw and south of east towards Ft. Wayne. It crossed Deed's Creek on the Matchett farm. Remains of the old bridge can still be seen. This road has been abandoned for many years and now runs east and west on the half section lines of Sections 28-29-30. It was about the first road laid out and started at the Ft. Wayne courthouse and went to Warner's Mills northwest of Warsaw, on the river. The distance as given in the old records of the Commissioners' Court was 45 miles. Buildings on the W. H. Gibson farm west of Ryersons were on this road and also those on the Matchett farm. Judge Royse, as a boy, lived along this road south of Pierceton. In a well written article published some twenty years ago he tells ^{many incidents and} of the stage driver blowing a horn as he arrived. ^{At Pierceton}



In 1870 at a cost of about \$10,000.00 a new school building was built in Pierceton. This was a brick structure built near the south edge of town on a knoll. Before this time the schools of the town had suffered because of the lack of a good building. Chester Prentice Hodge was the first principal in charge of the new building. Mathias Scott was in charge of the grammar grades, Miss Mary Sanders taught the intermediate grades and Miss M. A. Beach had charge of the primary. Isaac M. Gross followed Hodge in 1872 and 1873. In 1874 O. W. Miller was in charge followed by J. H. Lewis the next year. M. F. Scott had charge in 1876 and 1877 and W. J. Speer in 1878. Miss Crawford taught primary for six years beginning in 1873. Miss Belle Stinson and Miss Leora Taylor were intermediate teachers. In 1879 there were 356 students enrolled. School began in September and lasted for six months. This schoolhouse built in 1870 served well until 1921. In June of that year it burned and the present building was built. At that time Ray Kuhn was superintendent. In 21-22 22-23 and until Jan-^{The} 1924 school was held in various places. High school was uptown in rooms formerly used by a casket factory. School began in the new building January 21, 1924. I was teaching there and was 35 that day. It was a very cold, blizzardlike day and not one half of the children were there. The new building was very warm and comfortable. We were teaching there at this time and well remember the day. The high school at this date contained about 120 pupils. Mr. Kuhn deserved a lot of credit for keeping the school work up to standard while the children were scattered here and there about town. The Menzie school was going at this time as well as the one south of Ridinger Lake. It was known as the Adams school.



Early History of Washington
Township.



Some years ago, about 1923, when Road 30 went thru for the first time, it was very heart-breaking to Pierceton people to see the road go ^{3 miles} north of town on the north line of Section 15-16 etc. for this was never a very important road. We were teaching in the Pierceton high school at the time. Being connected with the surveyor's office they ^{asked} me if I had anything to do with that location for Road 30. I told them I had nothing to do with it. Had they gone to George McCarter they might have had the right man. It has pleased Pierceton people to see new road 30 built thru the north part of town. This was done ⁱⁿ about 148-9 1948-9.

New Road 30 is one of the best roads in the State and they have a ^{with a} right-of-way ~~be~~ bought so that some day it can be a four lane highway, the new ^{extension of the} road being north of the present one. The total width is 172 feet. With Pierceton now at the crossroads of Road 30 and Road 13, it bids fair to become in time a city of importance. When Road 13 was rebuilt in the summer of 1949, the town was cut off from the outside world to some extent, for it seemed that about every road into town that summer was blocked. The town lost some, but gained a great deal more, for it ^{obtained} ~~got~~ a wide paved street with curbs at State expense. Road 30 is one of the big thru roads of the nation and someday it will be four lanes as it is now west of Wanatah. What will happen to the Pennsylvania Railroad is a matter of conjecture. With airplanes coming into common use the time may come when all railroads will haul only freight and very few, if any, passengers. Railroads cannot begin to compete with airplanes as to speed, and as for safety there are no sidings in the skies, nothing much to run into, and the roadways are high and wide. A railroad train is absolutely limited to the tracks in front of the engine.



Washington Township

Washington Township is one of the townships in the eastern tier in the County. It is about six miles square and so contains 36 township sections. It holds out well on the six mile basis north and south but east and west the township is a little short. The west tier of sections contain about 32 acres less than they should. Section 6 for example in the northwest corner has 151 acres in its NE $\frac{1}{4}$, 135 in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, 143.93 in the southwest quarter and 160 in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$. This make about 590 acres instead of 640. The north and west tier of sections in any Congressional Township are usually over or short in acreage. Errors were crowded to the north and west by the early government surveyors. The township has all kinds of land in it but much of it is rolling and some real hills occur in the eastern part. Wooster is the only village in the township besides Pierceton. It was quite a lively little trading place from about 1856 to 1896. The township used to have twelve school houses scattered over its area. While most of its roads run east and west and north and south yet there are a good many that angle and wind around somewhat indicating that they may follow old trails started by the Indians or by the early settlers. Only three lakes are shown on the map of Washington Township, Ridinger's, Robinson and Mud or Froehly. Ridinger is much the largest and is in the northeast section covering much of the west half of section 1. Perhaps 40 acres is covered by Robinson Lake in Section 13. Most of this lake is in Whitley County. Mud lake is in Sec. 15 and is about ten acres in area.



Some of the early settlers of Washington Township were John and Vincent Makemson, John McNeal, Henry Hoover, George and Henry Sommerville, Samuel Firestone, William Moore, Alexander Graham, and William Beasley. They all came here in the 1830's. Other oldtimers in the township were John Hoover, William Stephenson, Jehu Dunham, Robert McNeal, John Doke, James Crouch, James Chaplin, Charles Chapman, Jesse Little, Lewis Keith, James Stinson, John Elder, James T. Stinson, George W. Ryerson, Martin Braysted, John Bratt, Asa Pratt, George Wagner, William O'Brien, Abe K. Leedy, James Humpreys, Thomas Logan, John Mc Daniels, Samuel Elder, Absolum Brown, John O. Crutcher, Henry Phillips, Jacob Phillips, and James Clinger. John Makemson is supposed to have erected the first house in 1835. The first hewed log house was erected in 1853 by Lewis Keith. It was used as a tavern and stood on what is now Lot 1 Block 15 of the original plat of Pierceton. The first store was established in 1850 by Nathan Chapman at the village of Fairview. This was a mile or so ^{south} ~~northeast~~ of what is now Pierceton. About 1840 Lewis Keith started the first blacksmith shop. He also built the first mill in the township. It was on Deed's Creek and was a grist mill. Several years after this, Alexander Menzie started the first saw mill. Dr. Banta was the first physician and was postmaster at Pierceton. George W. Ryerson and John Chaplin about 1841 set out the first orchards with trees from Ft. Wayne. The first religious meeting was held at the home of John Bratt by William Divinney, a missionary of the M. E. church. The occasion was the funeral of Mr. Bratt's daughter. The second service was in 1839 at the home of William Moore.



The first tavern in the township was the home of G. W. Ryerson who lived a mile or so south of what is now Pierceton. The ~~ps~~ postoffice was here and mail was brought on horseback. Mr. Ryerson was postmaster and his son Ira. J. Ryerson was the deputy. The first school was a log building erected on the Moore farm. Adam Lainge taught there in 1840. It was a subscription school. The second schoolhouse was erected near the home of G. W. Ryerson and was called the Ryerson school. The first Methodist Church building was erected in 1839 on a lot donated by Robert McNeal. Church had been held at his home for five years. Two of the earliest marriages were the weddings of Morris P. Chaplin to Sarah A. Morris and Adam Laing to Mary Chaplin. In the fall of 185~~8~~³ the railroad was completed to Pierceton and the town celebrated with a grand dinner. This dinner was for the officers of the road and all the laborers. When talk began about a railroad coming thru from Fort Wayne to Chicago there was some speculation as to its route. Fairview was started some distance ~~northeast~~^{South} of the ~~present~~ site of Pierceton but when the road went to the ~~South~~^{North} of the town the town was moved. Abstracts of land as far north as Oswego contain deeds ^{in 1853} to the railroad & company. When the route was changed the land was deeded back. Pierceton and Larwill are high points on this branch of the railroad. There is a dip east of Pierceton called Sheeps Hollow. The first name of Larwill was High Point. Most of the track ~~is~~ is down grade from Pierceton to Winona Lake. Pierceton had a single track, as did all other points along the line in this county, until about 1902 when a program of double tracking was carried out so trains could go faster and run more safely.



Brief Biographies of some
of the early settlers.
Of Washington Township.



It is interesting to read the biographies of some of the men who had to do with the early history of Pierceton. In a book called Biographical & Historical Record of Kosciusko County published about 1887 we find several of these biographies.

Charles Watson Conant was born in 1829 in Massachusetts. As a boy he lived in Ohio and here he grew to manhood. He came to this county in 1863. Here he engaged in the lumber business. During the civil war he was engaged in making gun-stocks for the Government. Then he had a furniture factory in Pierceton where he employed about 75 to 100 men. At the same time he carried on a general mercantile business there. In 1872 he sold out his interests at Pierceton and went to Michigan where he died in 1880. Conant and Moore was the name of the firm for some years at Pierceton. The Conant & Moore Addition to Pierceton is north-east of the depot. Lewis S. Foster who had a drug store in Pierceton was born in Ohio in 1836. At Lewisburg, Ohio he worked at making wagons and carriages. After learning this trade he went to Liberty Mills, Indiana. In 1873 he came to Pierceton and became associated with his brother Frank in the drug business. Foster Brothers published the Pierceton Independent from 1879 to 1885. Mr. Foster was a master mason and affiliated with the Methodist church. Francis Henry Foster of Foster & Brother was born in 1834. The father came with his family to Indiana in 1843 and located in Wabash County. At the age of 16 he began to learn the trade of a blacksmith and wagon maker. Later he clerked in a store at North Manchester and then enlisted as a private in the Union army. He came to Pierceton in 1867. In 1885 he was chosen superintendent of the Pierceton Manufacturing Co. He was a comrade of the John Murray Post of the G. A. R. and a prominent Odd Fellow.



Hiram Finton ~~Esq.~~ was a mason and plasterer around Pierceton for a number of years. His parents came from Logan County, Ohio in 1846 and settled near Wooster. His father John Finton was in business at Wooster during the balmy days of this village. He was a justice of the peace for the township, and an honored and respected citizen. Hiram Finton took up the trade of plasterer and mason when he was ^{eighteen} ~~sixteen~~ years old. He married Pricilla Bennett of Tippecanoe Township in 1861 and there ~~was~~ ^{were} eleven children. Mr. Finton served in the Civil War and in 1866 returned to Pierceton where he continued to follow his trade. He and his wife were Presbyterians and he was an elder in the church. He belonged to the Masonic fraternity and to the John Murray Post of the G. A. R. ^{was born} in Pierceton. Alfred Hoover in 1811 near Richmond, Indiana. The family belonged to the Friends or Quaker church. Alfred was the oldest son of eight. In 1837 he married Mary Allsed whose father had served in the War of 1812. About 1853 he came to this county and settled on 320 acres that he had purchased from the Government. The land was covered at that time with a heavy growth of timber mostly poplar and walnut. Mr. Hoover served as Township Trustee for several terms. Daniel Hoover was born in 1827 in Wayne Co. Indiana. He and his wife came to Washington Township in 1854 and settled on 160 acres of unimproved land. He developed a fine farm of some 210 acres by hard work and good management. They belonged to the Methodist church and he was a member of the Odd Fellows. As a republican he served as township trustee and also as County commissioner. They had three daughters one of who became Mrs. Dr. C. K. Long of Pierceton. Judging from the picture of Mr. Hoover which appears in this book he was a very intelligent man and physically able to take care of any emergency.



Daniel Kaylor was born in Virginia in 1822. His parents moved to Ohio in 1824. He recieved a common school education. At the age of 22 he began to teach school in Logan County, Ohio. He moved to this county in 1846 and took up 160 acres of land in Washington Township. In 1867 he sold the farm and moved to Pierceton. He served as clerk of the town and in 1876 was appointed a justice of the peace. For a period of ten years he taught school mostly in Washington Township. He was a class leader in the Methodist Church for a number of years. Francis Morrison was born in 1787 on Long Island. For seven years he was a sailor on the Atlantic Ocean. He married Miss Hannah Jones of Pennsylvania and they were the parents of 11 children. In November 1844 he settled in Washington Township. They belonged to the Universalist Church at Pierceton of which he was one of the founders. James Goodrich married one of the daughters of Mr. & Mrs. Morrison. He was a comrade of John Murray Post 124 of the G. A. R. at Pierceton. Calvin Beagle born in 1811 made his home in Washington Township for ten years from 1838 to 1848 and then moved to Section 11 of Plain Township. John Beagle was one of his children. Samuel Snodgrass, who was a farmer in Washington Township here was born in Plain Township of this county August 14, 1836 being one of the first white children born here. His ancestors were of Scotch-Irish descent. Joseph Hart came to this county in April, 1849. He built one of the first hewed log cabins in the township. He lived in it until 1864 when he built a frame residence. He was born in Jefferson County, Ohio in 1811. Abe Kieth Leedy came to Washington Township October 13, 1842. They stopped on Turkey Creek Prairie and then they spent six weeks in a cabin which



stood where Pierceton now stands. This old cabin was owned by Hannah Warsing, a maiden lady, who died at the age of 70 years. She and Lewis Keith owned the land that Pierceton was later built upon. Mr. Leedy moved upon his own farm February 5, 1843. Here he built a hewed log cabin 18x20 with a clapboard roof. He lived in this for 17 years when he built a frame house. In 1856 he built a barn. Leedy was born in Richland County, Ohio in 1814. At the age of 21 he married Miss Elizabeth Baker. His father was six feet one and weighed 362 pounds. His maternal grandfather was Lewis Keith. Leedy was a republican and served for five years as justice of the peace in his township. For seven years he was township trustee. It appears that a township used to have three trustees and a clerk. Leedy, ^{John Irving} Asa Pratt, & ~~Wm O'Brien~~ were trustees together and William O'Brien was township clerk. The Leedys were members of the German Baptist Church. For fifteen years Mr. Leedy was bothered with rheumatism. He opened a bog spring on his farm and found that the waters therefrom cured his trouble. He built a sanitarium nearby and people came there to be cured. This was in the 1880's. The waters cured rheumatism, catarrh of the head, dyspepsia and other diseases. Mr. Leedy is mentioned many times in the old Indianians. At the age of 73 Mr. Leedy could read and write without the help of glasses. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children. He was ~~petition~~ petitioner of the Abe K. Leedy ditch which drains ground west of the former site of Washington Union church. The Leedy home site is now owned by John Bilts. He was familiar character around the town of Lees Pierceton for fifty years. The ~~Leedy~~ Leedy sanitarium was a long frame building with an outside porch. We are told that it burned down and another was never built.



S. D. Thomas a farmer living on Section 13 in 1887 came to the township in 1865. Rev. A. G. McCarter was born in Pennsylvania in 1827. In the fall of 1852 he was licensed to preach as a minister in the M.E.Church. In 1856 he was on the Pierceton circuit. In 1880 he retired from active work. He was married on June 17, 1858 to Miss Sarah A. Stinson, a native of Pike County, Ohio. They have been the parents of five children. George McCarter and Elmer McCarter were two of the boys. George was surveyor of the county for several years and Elmer McCarter served in several public capacities at Pierceton being Postmaster at one time. ^{John}~~Daniel~~ Bennett used to live on the Orr farm where he died in 1863. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1797. He was married to Miss Susan Decker who was born in 1805. She died in 1864 and her remains were ~~buried~~ buried in the McNeal cemetery. This cemetery is east of the present Road 39 13 and south of Road 30. Daniel Bennett was born in 1829. He was a son of John. He married Rachael Wilber. Jacob H. Miller was one of the firm of Miller Brothers of Pierceton dealers in hardware and farm implements in the 1880's. He was born in Stark County, Ohio in 1843. He was wounded in the Civil War and was twice captured by the confederates and spent some time in Libby prison. In 1880 he came to Pierceton and became associated with his brother Jonas M. Miller in the hardware business. For two years or so he was the town treasurer. He belonged to the Masonic Lodge and to the John Murray Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. It is a pleasure to read of these oldtimers who came here from the east and cleared the land in and around Pierceton. They had their own pleasures. They lived close to Nature and must have enjoyed their work even though it was difficult.



John Makemson was born in Logan County, Ohio, December 19, 1811. His parents were natives of England, and after their immigration to the United States they first settled in Kentucky and then went to Logan County, Ohio. There they found the Indians still the principal inhabitants. The settlers were obliged to build block-houses to protect themselves at night from their troublesome neighbors. October 21, 1835 John and Vincent Makemson came to Washington Township, Kosciusko County. Warsaw was not laid out yet and Leesburg and Monoquet were the two main villages of the newly formed County. When John came here he had 200 acres of land, a five dollar reserve so far as money is concerned, two horses, one wagon, six head of cattle, fifteen head of hogs, an ax, handsaw, a cross-cut saw, two planes, a broad ax, a drawing knife and a grindstone. With these tools with his own hands ^{he made} his bedsteads, tables, chairs and other furniture. He made his own farming tools comprising plows, harrows, cultivators, sleds, rakes and grain cradles. Grain cutting had to be done by hand. By killing deer and other game he kept his table supplied with meat. After tanning the hides he made shoes for his family making his own lasts and pegs. He never learned a trade but was brought up on the farm and did farm work. After coming to Washington Township he purchased some sheep. His wife spun and carded the wool, got it woven and made all their clothing. He cleared his land and raised corn, beans, and potatoes enough for his own use and some to sell. The first year he was here he cut his own road to Warsaw's future site and to Leesburg. He also cut browse enough during the winter for six head of cattle. He killed that year five deer, caught fifty muskrats, six minks, one otter, and twenty-five



raccoons. He also found four bee trees. Honey and maple sugar were used for sugar by the oldtimers. His first year was the best one for the fur trade for the settlers coming in scared the game to other parts. For several years after his arrival in this county the Pottawatomie Indians were numerous. The Squabucks around Osweg were peaceful but the others were more or less troublesome. There were some Miamis at the east end of Nine Mile Lake. Mr. Makemson's first tax receipt was for only 33 cents. In 1887 his first installment was \$96.00. He is a public spirited man and liberal. He did much of his trading at Pierceton and when he passed away a good Christian man passed to his reward. Hiram O. King was a physician in Pierceton in the late 1880's. He was born in 1850 near Kendallville, Indiana. For several years he taught country school in Noble County. He then took up the study of medicine for several years and began to practise at Moscow, Michigan. In November, 1877 he came to Pierceton. He married Miss Ida B. Wilson of Noble County. They are the parents of one son Ralph Newton King. They attended the Methodist Church. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and she belonged to the Eastern Star. Mr. King's parents were natives of Germany, and Richland County, Ohio. His father came to America in 1830. At this time there was nothing but the Kenzie home and a fort marking the present site of Chicago. He first located in Ohio and then in 1849 came to Noble County. He died in 1885 at the age of 79. Doctors in these days had to go horseback over poor roads and the trip out to some cabin was a real journey. Fever and ague was a common ailment. A patient became cold and had the shakes and then would go into a fever. The year 1838 was called the sickly for many people died that summer. Whiskey was



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In 1887 Edward Ryerson and Hiram F. Smith were publishing the Pierceton Record. This paper had a long life in Pierceton. Edward Ryerson was born in Pierceton in 1863. After leaving school he assisted his father in the lumber business. In 1888 he entered the office of the Pierceton Record. Commodore Clemens was an attorney at Pierceton in 1887. He was born in 1837 in Madison County, Ohio. His parents came here in 1841 and his father died four years later. Clemens was reared to be a farmer. Until he was 16 years of age he had had an opportunity to attend only one year of country school. He went back to Ohio and attended school for one year, then attended at Goshen high school a year and at Warsaw another ~~year~~ two years. He worked as a farm hand until 1861 when he started to Union Christian College at Merom, Indiana. In 1863 he began to read law in the office of John W. Caples at Warsaw. He was admitted to the bar in 1869. In this respect he was a close contemporary of the late Judge Lem Royse who was admitted in 1873. Royse was also originally from south of Pierceton. Mr. Clemens in 1869 began practising law at Pierceton. He affiliated with the democrat party. He married Miss Catherine Garver, a daughter of Jacob and Barbara Mock Garver, whose folks were old settlers around Webster. They were the parents of two children Astor C. Clemens and Mrs. Mary Brosnahan of Pierceton. Commodore Clemens was one of the first members of the Masonic Lodge at Pierceton and figured prominently in the towns affairs for many years. The holding of court in the county was quite an event in earlier years and brought many people to the county seat. The courthouse was a frame building built in 1843-5 on the courthouse square. In 1859 an office building was built north of the courthouse proper and some offices were in this building.



Dr. William Hayes was born in 1811 in Coshocton County, Ohio. His parents were natives of Ireland, his mother being a from Wales. His father came to America and settled in Virginia. William Hayes came from the same family that President Rutherford B. Hayes came from. William was reared to be a farmer. He attended subscription schools of the day and completed his education by studying privately. He married Miss Amelia McCoy and to this union six children were born. One was S. M. Hayes who grew up around Pierceton and became treasurer of the county and died January 18, 1876 while in office. Hayes lived in Warsaw on the north end of the present post-office site. His funeral was largely attended. Another son Henry W. Hayes in 1887 was in the restaurant business in Pierceton. In 1844 at the age of 33 William Hayes began to study medicine. He went to Cleveland, Ohio and attended a series of lectures and graduated from the Eclectic Medical College in Cinna Cincinnati, Ohio February 8, 1860. To help pay his expenses as a student he worked on the Ohio Canal. In this respect he followed in the footsteps of James A. Garfield who was a tow boy along the Erie Canal about this time. ^{Hayes} ~~He~~ came to Pierceton in March, 1854 when the town was just emerging from its cradle. It was then a hamlet containing but five or six families. All but one lived in hewed log houses. He acquired some wealth and in 1878 the Hayes ^{building} ~~Block~~ burned consisting of five business rooms and his dwelling. All were frames. He built a new Hayes Block this time making it of brick. For years this was used for stores and lodge ~~halls~~ halls. He was a member of the Masonic lodge and also of the Odd Fellows. Hayes additions cover much of the map of Pierceton.



Samuel M. Hayes, extreasurer of Kosciusko County was born in Coshocten County, Ohio, on August 6, 1839. He had all the advantages of a common school education and improved them well. He came to Pierceton with his parents in 1854. His father, Dr. William Hayes, was an active practisioner with a large practise and his son decided to be a doctor and began to read medicine in his fathers office. He volunteered for duty in the war of the rebellion and became a hospital steward with the 30th regiment. In 1864 he was promoted to assis²tant surgeon. After he returned hom^e he entered his fathers drug store at Pierceton as a clerk. In 1866 he married Miss Virginia Leedy of Mansfield, Ohio. In the campaign of 1872 known as the Horace Greely campaign he was elected treasurer of Kosciusko County. He was re-elected again two years later. He lived in Warsaw during these years on the quarter block now occupied by the postoffice in a frame house that sat next to the east and west alley. Mr. Hayes became afflicted with consumption and on the 18th of January centennial year 1876 he departed this life. He left his wife and four children to mourn his departure. He was a member of several branches of the Masonic Lodge, a member of the Odd Fellows at Pierceton and of the Hackleman Encampment I.O.O.F. at arshaw. His funeral was largely attended by the members of these orders. Hayes followed Andy Bair as treasurer. Bram Funk was appointed to succeed Hayes until the next election in 1876. Aaron Stumpff was the next county treasurer being elected in 1876. When Hayes was treasurer Reub Williams was the clerk of the court, Perry Jaques was sheriff, William G. Piper and J. E. Roberts were recorders, and James H. Carpenter, probate judge. ^{Cal^h} Hughes was surveyor and the commissioners were James Plummer, William M. O'brien and Solomon Nichols.



Herman Ingraham Stevens was a man who traded much at Pierceton and Wooster years ago. He used to haul goods for Chipman to Warsaw from Ft. Wayne and no doubt he hauled for other merchants along the old Ft. Wayne road. He was born March 1, 1818 in Cayuga County, New York. His father was Timothy Stevens who was a millwright. The family came to Huron County, Ohio in 1826 and Timothy Stevens died soon after. The family returned to Cayuga County where the mother died in 1833. Herman attended the common schools in New York State and acquired a good education. In 1839 he was united in marriage with Miss Henrietta Ingraham in Seneca County, Ohio. That same year they came to Kosciusko County and purchased a farm which was then in the wilderness. He improved the farm which was 160 acres in the southwest corner of Washington Township. Five children came to bless this home. In 1855 his wife died thus breaking up a happy home. In 1857 he married Mrs. Elizabeth Jane Spencer of Wayne County, N. Y. There were two children Willie and Jennie. Again in 1861 his home was broken by the death of his wife. For his third wife he married Miss Julia R. Adams of Wayne County, N. Y. Four children were born to them, Charlie, Littie, Frank and Annie. Fannie. Fannie still lives in Pierceton. Mr. Stevens was a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge and a charter member of the Hackleman Encampment. In 1879 he was regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in the township. He was a man of upright character and few possessed the confidence and respect of their fellow men in a more marked degree. The old home is pictured on Page 123 of the Atlas which page also shows a picture of Mr. & Mrs. Stevens.



Nelson R. Galbreath was born near Dayton, Ohio, in May 1845. and came with his parents to Indiana in 1852. He and his father began to clear a farm in the unbroken wilderness. He was a soldier in the civil war even though he was small in stature. After the war was over he married Miss Cynthia A. Royse, a sister of Lem Royse. Although his family had been of the democratic belief N. R. identified himself with the republican party. For four years he was a constable in Washington Township. During these years he studied law with J. H. Taylor as his teacher. Taylor was an attorney in Pierceton, and lived south of town where the Ryersons had lived some years before. ^{Galbreath} ~~He~~ took an active part in politics but never practised law. In 1883 he and his wife were baptised into the religious faith of the Church of God. The Galbreaths were the parents of eight children and the descendants of N. R. and his wife still live around Pierceton. N. R. Galbreath was one of a family of ten children. His father was of Scotch ancestry and his mother was Pennsylvania German. The father, Alexander Galbreath died in September, 1874 on the same farm where he had lived for thirty-five years. Mrs. Galbreath's father, G. W. A. Royse, was a native of Canada. Her mother was born in Vermont. They were married in 1834 and came to the present vicinity of Pierceton in 1835. Both of them were school teachers. G. W. A. is supposed to have taught the first school in the county on the prairie west of Leesburg which was then just a village surrounded by Indians and a few whites. Royse took the east side of the county in the first assessment and we have his old record. Felkner took the west. This was in 1836. G.W.A. was a minister of the gospel. He died before the civil war and his son Lem took care of the family.



Samuel Galbreath was born in Darke County, Ohio in 1827. He was a son of John and Elizabeth Galbreath who were natives of Pennsylvania. John Galbreath was born in 1780. This was three years after the Revolutionary War was ended. His Samuel Galbreath's mother died near Pierceton at her son's home in 1869. She was a member of the Universalist church. Samuel married Miss Sarah Keltner and they were the parents of seven children. Alice, one of the daughters, became the wife of Henry Hayes. Jemima and Marion Galbreath were two of the children. Samuel located on 106 acres of heavily timbered land in 1852 about the time that Fairview was being laid out. Mrs. Galbreath died in 1856. Some years later he married Mrs. Margaret Hibbets and seven children were born to this marriage. He was a republican in politics and an active member in the Masonic lodge. Levi E. Snyder was born in Pennsylvania in 1829. At the age of 4 he was taken by his parents to Richland County, Ohio. Here he grew to manhood and in 1853 came to this county. For nine years he did farming in Washington Township. From 1860 to 1865 he clerked in a store at Pierceton and then went to Larwill where he was a clerk until 1869. Then for eleven years he was a business man in Larwill and then came to Pierceton. Here he became a member of the firm Shanton, Humphreys and Snyder who had a hardware store. He was much interested in the Masonic Lodge of which he was a member. He was a man of strict integrity and by his fair and honorable dealings with his customers he gained the confidence and respect of all who knew him. Clerks in these days spent long hours in the store and recieved small pay perhaps \$9.00 a week. Stores opened any time after 6 in the morning and did not close until 9 or 10 at night. Some places kept open on Sunday from about 8 to 11.



Isaac Raymond Shanton was born near Waynesburg, Stark County, Ohio in 1834. He was one of eight children of Abraham and Catherine Woy Shanton. His father was a farmer by occupation and came to Washington Township in 1868. Isaac attended the district school and completed his childhood education at Pierceton when Prof. I. M. Gross was at the head of the schools. At the age of 19 he began teaching school in this county. Some people are perhaps still living around Pierceton who went to him as a teacher. During this time he spent the summer months as a clerk. In 1862 he formed a partnership with R. M. Humphreys in the hardware business. On January 1, 1865 he was united in marriage with Miss Eva L. Guy, a daughter of Norman and Mary Guy, old residents of Pierceton. Mr. Shanton and his wife were both prominent in the Presbyterian church, he being leader of the choir, and she being the organist. He was a member of the Odd Fellows. The ditch going thru Froehley Lake and on into Cedar Creek is known as the Ike Shanton Ditch. Mr. & Mrs. Shanton lived on the corner south of the church and on the east side of First Street. He was as well known as any man about the town and was a highly respected citizen.

Gabriel D. Lesh was born in Preble County, Ohio, in 1843. In 1846 his parents took him to Wabash County, Indiana, locating in North Manchester. Here G.B. was reared as a farmer until 1861. From this date to 1869 he taught school and became principal at Pierceton. About 1868 he engaged in the lumber business at Pierceton and a year or so later took O. H. Matthews as a partner. In 1872 they sold out and went to Warsaw and started a plow handle factory. The Lesh factory in Pierceton was ^{just} northeast of the depot. The Lesh factory was a large concern in the county seat until about the close of the century when for lack of good lumber ^{here} they ^{went south} left.



Daniel J. Dick was a doctor in Pierceton in the early days. He came here in the spring of 1865. His father was in the revolutionary war and he was a soldier in the Mexican War and was wounded. He was succeeded in his practice by his son M. L. Dick. George W. Ryerson was born April 9, 1811, in Butler County, Ohio. He was one of five children of John Ryerson and Anna Ryerson. They lived with their children in Darke County, Ohio for some time and then were driven out by the Indians. The county seat of this county is Greenville where the ^{Indian} big treaty was made in 1795. Afterwards they returned to Darke county and John Ryerson became prominently associated with its early history. George W. grew to manhood in the woods of Ohio. In 1833 he married Miss Rebecca Lipps who was a native of Greenbrier County, Virginia. In the fall of 1833 he came to Ft. Wayne. In 1836 he came to this county and lived for three years on Turkey Creek Prairie and in 1839 came to Washington Township. Here he purchased a wooded tract which he made into a farm. Throughout a long residence in the township he sustained the reputation of an honorable and upright citizen. He was ever ready to lend aid to the needy and was always a hearty supporter of any worthy public enterprise. He died November 2, 1871. Samuel Firestone was born in Logan County, Ohio in 1827. At the age of ten in 1837 he came to this county. In 1853 he married Miss Sarah Fashbaugh. To this union ten children were born. He owned a large farm on the east side of Ridinger Lake and in all owned 332 acres. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Pierceton. Joseph Warner came to this county in the fall of 1848. He lived on 160 acres east of Froehly Lake, the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 14-32-7. He cleared this 160 acres and made it into a fine farm. Besides farming he was owner of a mill site in Whitley County. He was one of the successful farmers of the township.



John Late Wince was born in Culpepper County, Virginia on the day before Christmas in 1832. On the morning of the phenomenon of the falling stars in November, 1833 his ~~paret~~ parents moved to Muskingum County, Ohio. Here they followed farming until 1854 when they moved to a site near Pierceton. It was in Whitley County. He John attended the district school and the high school at Columbia (City) . He then left home and spent ten years teaching in Ohio. Then for seven years he was an invalid and lived at home with his father. In 1867 he came to Washington Township and on March 13 he married Sarah Roxana Chaplin who was born in 1836 and had spent her life south of the present site of Pierceton. Her father was a native of Vermont and her mother of Tioga County, New York state. They came to Washington Township and purchased 160 acres of timbered land which he proceeded to clear. They experienced all the hardships and privation incident to pioneer life. Mrs. Chaplin died in 1872 and her husband went to Plymouth where he preached and was the editor and publisher of The Restitution, a religious paper. Mr. & Mrs. Wince were members of the Church of God and her husband was an elder and preached in different places. Mrs. Wince for a long ~~tz~~ time wrote poetry and sent it to the Northern Indianian. Old issue of the papers contain many of her writings and poems. M. P. Chaplin in 1879 owned the SE¹/₄ of Section 29 and 40 acres in Section 33. The old angling road to Ryersons went past their buildings. By referring to a Standard History of Kosciusko County published in 1917 and sponsored by the late Judge Royse we find some interesting data given by Mrs. Winch concerning the old days in Washington Township when she was a girl in the neighborhood. We include some of these.



, "I was not intimately acquainted with John Lakemson but have good cause to hold him in kindly memory because of his Christian bearing towards my brother. His people came from England to Kentucky and had moved from there to Logan County, Ohio. The settlers there had to flee to blockhouses at night to protect themselves from the Indians. John was born there December 19, 1811. He came to this township with his brother Vincent in October, 1835. They settled in Section 3. John took up 200 acres. Uncle John was a good man and much esteemed. He helped in the building of ten of our churches. They lived alone in the township with the Indians for a year. In the fall of 1836 others came here including John McNeal, Henry Hoover, George and Henry Sommerville, Samuel Firestone, William Moore, Alexander Graham and William Leasley. The first school in the township was taught by Adam Laing in a log building on the present (1879) farm of William Moore. Laing was married to my aunt Mary J. Chaplin. Mr. Edward Cone, brother of Mrs. David Hayden pronounced the ceremony and was so frightened that he forgot to pronounce the couple man and wife. My baby brother Byron was the "best man". He stood up with them and held fast to her dress, a pretty figured delaine. Mr. Morse Pierce Chaplin, my uncle and brother of the bride, was married a short time before to Sarah Ann Morris. This was one of the first-weddings ever held in the township. Prince Albert and Queen Victoria were married about the same time. Billy Williams of the county seat married Miss Elizabeth J. Douglas about this time. He became one of the outstanding politicians of future days. The Sommervilles were fine people. The two sons of George were my pupils when I taught school in the winter of 1857-8. "



Mrs. Winch furthers says "In 1837 John Hoover, William Stephenson, John Dunham, Robert McNeal, and John Doke came in from Ohio. The next year was the sickly year and Mr. Stephenson died. John Dunham was the father-in-law of William M. Millgin. In his family cemetery the Indian Mozette was buried. Mr. Dunham set up the first carding mill on the Tippecanoe River. It was for Elias Shull. Robert McNeal was a resident of Pierceton for a long time but later moved to Warsaw where he died. He was an employee of the Pe Pittsburg, Ft. Wayne & Chicago Railroad. I came here with my parents in 1838. We had formerly lived near Collimer. Charles Chapman, the old bachelor from whom my father bought the apple trees came in 1838. His little cabin stood here long after he had vanished from site. Chapman died and was buried in the hollow of the Ryerson Cemetery near the graves of Norman Lipps and Abner T. McQuigg. Here lie several nameless sleepers. One of them was a poor traveller who died of a throat disease at the Ryerson tavern. Jesse Little also came in 1838 and settled on a farm in Section 36. Young folks used to have a good time going to his house to sing. The remains of him and his wife, Elizabeth, were buried in the Ryerson cemetery. " Roxanna Winch died in _____ and her remains are buried in the Ryerson cemetery. It would be interesting and educational if someone had the time to collect all the articles and poems she wrote and make them into a book. A compilation of all the Pierceton items that have appeared in the old papers of the past would make a creditable history of the town. Predominat^d among them would be the writing of S. Roxana Winch. It is doubtful if many people living today remember her in the balmy days of the 1830's.



Schools of the long ago.



Spelling matches were an interesting and educational pastime in the early schools. One school would invite another and there would be a contest. We are told that in 1852 scholars who attended the Ryerson School issued a challenge to other schools to send in their best spellers. William J. & J. P. Chaplin harness^{ed} five yoke of oxen to a sled and drove about the country picking up those who wished to attend. These were held in the evening and sometimes the contest would go on for several hours. Towards the close there would be only a few of the best spellers still standing and the person pronouncing the words would be har^up for material. Words would be taken from spellers such as McGuffey's, from the Bible and other books. If some bystander ~~would~~ volunteered a word he had to know how to spell it himself so they could check on it. Reading was made more of in those days than now. We have an old reader of this period. Many pages of the front part are taking up with inflections, emphasis, etc. slants which are not taken up now in the modern readers. The McGuffey readers were much used. McGuffey was a teacher living at Cincinnati. Rays arithmetics and Whites arithmetics were used. One looking through them today finds them very dry and many of the methods are ~~in~~ impractical to us. For example the multiplication of one mixed number with another. This is now handled thru changing both to decimals. Another matter was compound ratio and proportion. Many a teacher has worried thru this with his students when the whole matter could have been reduced to compound units. A problem would run somewhat like this: If three men working 10 hours ^{for 1 day} a day can dig a ditch 200 feet long, three feet wide, and four feet deep how many men working 6 hours ^{for 1 day} a day can dig a ditch



300 feet long five feet wide and two feet deep? The whole problem, as we can see, is impractical for men are not machines and cannot compare with machines. The teacher of today would tell the class that it depended on the kind of men that were working. One strong man who was willing to work might be worth three that did not want to work. Then it would depend on how the men felt and how much they had had to eat or drink. It would also depend on the kind of dirt to be thrown out of the ditch and the solidity of the ground they had to stand on. The amount of water in the ditch would have something to do with it and the weather would have a lot to do with it. If they ran into stones these would retard the work and if they ran into runny sand this would perhaps put the whole outfit out of commission. Most workers of early day had access to the little brown jug and so the kind of whiskey it contained would be a factor in this problem. Thus we can see that there are so many factors entering into this problem that it like many others found in these old books is just a frameup that sounds good on paper. If it has to be solved the way to do it is to figure it by the cubic yard, or cubic foot. The cubic content per man would per hour would be the basis of any answer that might be sought. Arithmetic was perhaps considered the main subject in the old schools especially for boys. Compound proportion was then known as the rule of three. Today it seems that mathematics might go by the wayside for they have invented machines that can do all the processes of mathematics, adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, extracting the square root, and even solving problems in algebra. The highest mathematics is used in astronomy and in electricity. Einstein's work was largely in the electrical field. It may be that machines will ultimately work differential equation



, It was customary in the old schools of years ago to have only one teacher. Sometimes his school was crowded. Some of the pupils were almost as old as the teacher. The teacher, himself, was sometimes not much farther advanced than some of the students having been graduated from a high school and having attended a summer normal. The grading took the shape of primary, intermediate and grammar grades. The grading such as we now have did not come until in the 1870's or 1880's. Before Pierceton built the brick school in 1870 at the south edge of town there were a couple of frame buildings used and these were up town. Leesburg started a school building campaign, it seems, for they built a brick building in 1868-9 and this started Pierceton and this started Warsaw. It showed some foresight in the school board of Pierceton to build where they did for this is a fine location and there are enough grounds about the building for playgrounds and future enlargement. Consolidation of school^s began when George Worley was superintendent about 1900. All of the ¹³~~eleven~~ schools that used to dot the township are now abandoned and the students are hauled to Pierceton. In 1920 the Adams and the Menzie schools were still going but the others had been vacated. The schools of the township used to be used much in political campaigns. Speakers would go out and there would be a rousing speech perhaps followed by a pole raising. A big demonstration of this kind took place at Pierceton in 1868 when Grant and Colfax were running. Pierceton always took a very active part in any political demonstration and sent delegations to the countys seat when a big rally was on. While not as strong a republican center as Leesburg yet it was strong enough to be counted on as a republican community. Joe Taylor, county clerk in 1882, was from Pierceton.



Pierceton in 1869.



Pierceton was in the height of its lumber industries in the years immediately after the Civil War. In 1869 Mr. George R. Thralls and Mr. Quim Hosler of the Northern Indianian went to the different towns about the county and took notes for long articles that appeared in the paper that fall. The columns about Pierceton ran ~~thru~~ thru two issues. In the issue for August 12, 1869 there are six columns about the industries at Pierceton. He ~~re~~ Thralls recalls of being on the site of Pierceton in May, 1836 when he came up from the south and crossed the Wabash at La Gro. He and some others stopped at Mr. Helvey's this side of the county line and stayed over night and then continued to hunt land. He mentions the ^{log} log cabin of Mr. Hayden east of Pierceton. In 1846 he was surveying and stayed all night at the hewed log house of Lewis Keith on the present site of the town. He says that all of what is now the town site was a heavy forest. Some roads were cut out and settlers moving in. The aristocratic settlers were talking about eating pound cake, drinking store coffee and eating white bread. By 1853 they began to talk about railroads and store clothing. He says that the town of Pierceton was laid out in the spring of '53 on lands owned by Lewis Keith and Mannah Warsing. Thralls was one of our first surveyors and was also a druggist at Warsaw. His ^{Surveyors} old record book is still at the office and is very neat. He built the first brick house in the county seat and also the building where the Interstate Public Service Company now have their offices. Thralls went to Florida later for his wife's health and died there in 1888. Hosler lived where the Bibler funeral home is. He was a partner of Reub Williams and they published the paper every Thursday in the third story of the Phoenix Block.



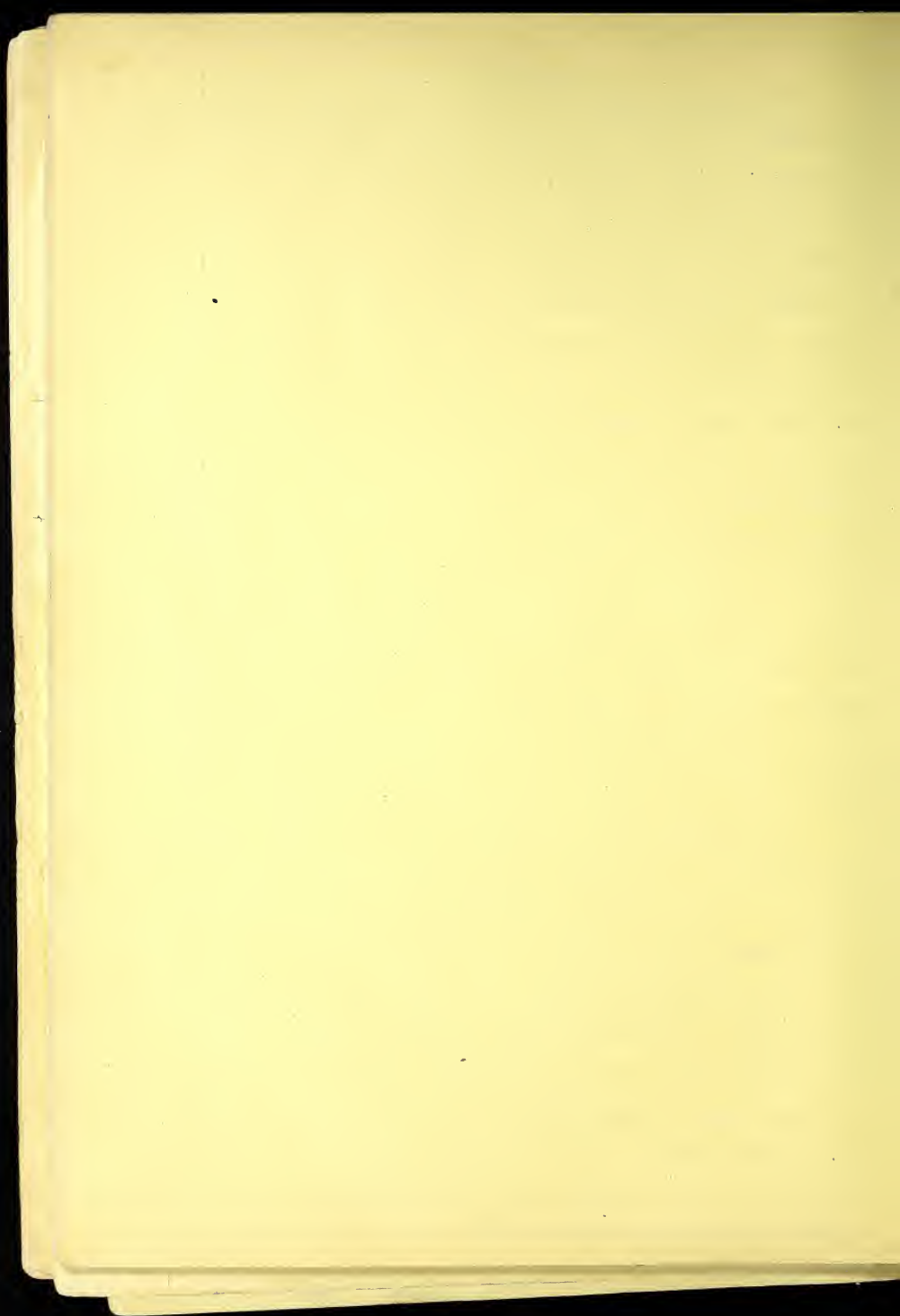
In 1869 Pierceton had about 1600 inhabitants. The private homes Thralls says were neat and well kept. The grounds are nicely planted with flowers and everything shows that the citizens are industrious, refined and intelligent. There were four churches in town-Methodist-Presbyterian-Universalist and Catholic. There was no school worth mentioning but one was soon to be built. Children were being educated in district or private schools. There was the Odd Fellows, the Masons, and the Sons of Temperance. There was one newspaper, seven doctors, four lawyers, one dentist, one photographer, and two hotels. There was a furniture factory, run by W. C. Conant and John Moore, a woolen mills run by Frery and Murray, a flour mill run by Michael Murray, a hub and spoke factory by Wm. H. Spayde and Co., a wagon and carriage shop by Shaffer, Rush and Engle and another by Conrad, and two sawmill one by Thacher & Brother and another not in use. The furniture factory had three buildings the main one being ^{three} ~~four~~ stories high. They employe ^{and boys} 85 to 100 men^{at} pay from \$1.50 to ~~44~~ \$4.00 a day. Bedsteads that they made sold for as little as \$2.50 and others as high as \$25.00. In 1868 they uses a million and a half feet of lumber and and made 15000 bedsteads alone to say nothing of other furniture. Their sales that year was over \$100,000.~~dollars~~. Most of their furniture was sold white, that is it was not varnished and had on it no trimmings. This was added if required but not solicited. Many thousands of dollars had been spent for the machinery that filled the three floors. A large store room was south of the tracks, the other buildings being on the north side and east of the depot along the railroad. Beautiful designs were cut on the more expensive furniture and scroll work was put on with specially built machines. They also made coffins some of which were of black walnut. These were shipped all over the country.



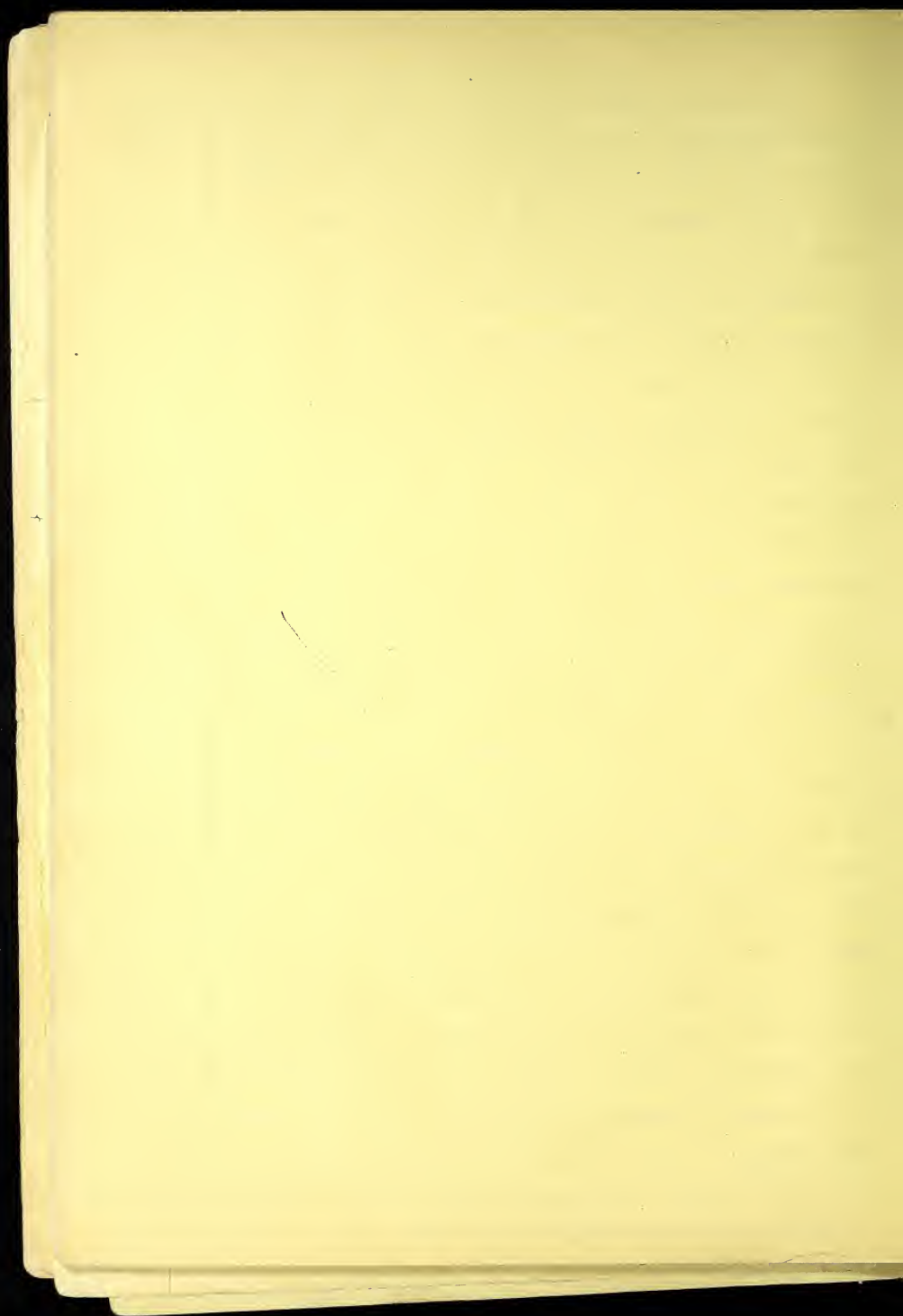
The woollen mills ^{are} are 36x44 feet and four stories high.

The upper floor was for custom carding. Wool was carded here for farmers and sheep raisers. The floor below this was for spinning. The clean wool to be made into cloth is first run thru a carding machine. It is then run thru a second machine for more perfect carding. From this machine the wool comes out in a loose woollen rope. A third machine separates it into an endless strip. Another machine forms the wool into threads. These are about the size of a straw. This is called roving. From this machine it goes to a spinning jack etc. etc. until it is made into cloth. The weaving rooms were on the second floor. They made jeans, satinettes, cassimeres, tweeds, blankets, plain and plaid goods and flannels. In another twister they made stocking yarns. This was the day of woolen underwear and heavy woolen stockings. Scouring, fulling and dyeing was done in the basement. Every room was heated by steam which came from an engine room. No fires were allowed. They shipped their surplus wool to the east. Other such mills existed in the county especially that of Elias Sholl at Monoquet.

The flouring mill at Pierceton, Thralls says, stood south of the railroad. It was 40x70 three stories high. It had a boiler house and water tanks. The grinding was done by four pairs of the finest French burrs. They made wheat flour, corn meal and buckwheat flour. Buckwheat cakes were much on the breakfast table in these days. A former mill here had burned down. Pierceton has always had a flour mill and one stands today south of the tracks and in the east part of town. Perhaps it is this same old building that Thralls and Hossler visited 82 years ago. In very early day in this county the early settlers had to go many miles to get their grain ground. Early mills were at Oswego and Monoquet and Webster.



The hub and spoke factory^w was 40x60 feet. It was run by Spayde and Shorb. They turned out seven hundred spokes a day. Spokes were tied into bundles of 52 because it ^{took} ~~took~~ that many for the four wheels of a vehicle, 13 to a wheel. Hubs were more difficult to make and passed thru more machines. They were tied in bundles of four. The machinery for this plant cost about seven thousand dollars. With nine hands they turned out about 400 dollars worth of wagon stock per week. The proprietors were both worthy young men. Shaffer, Rush and Engle had the running of the wagon shop. The wood shop was 22x36 and three men worked in this part. The blacksmith and ironing shop was 22x40. Here there were three fires and four men. The paint shop was above and here were two painters. They made wagons, spring wagons and carriages and turned out approximately 100 per year. Across the street was Peter Conrad's wagon and carriage shops. These shops were east of the present Legion Hall on both sides of the street. Conrads shops in 1869 were still in the making. It appears that wagons at this date were manufactured at the state penitentiary. ~~Her~~ Manufacturers outside of the penitentiary did not like this and did what they could to discourage people from buying the ones made in this institution. The sawmill of Thacher & Brother had a circular saw which could ~~sw~~ saw 10,000 feet of lumber in ten hours. Old papers of this date recite quite often about some sawmill burning down or a boiler exploding and killing or injuring several people. Many such mills were scattered over the county. In the 1880's after the Nickle Plate railroad was built Packerton became a busy milling center. John Packer was kept busy going around to different places where he owned sawmills. The county perhaps would have been better off if some of the good lumber shipped away had been left standing.



After visiting all of these factories Thralls and Hossler drove back home. Mr. Murray and Mr. Hayes paid their tavern bill and Mr. E. G. Eddy was thanked for escorting them about the town and introducing them to different people. They spent a pleasant day and said they would call again. The balance of their writeup appears in the August 19th issue of the Northern Indianian. In this they write about the different stores in town. Miss Delilah Finney was a milliner, selling bonnets, ribbons, flowers, etc. In these day they made hats beginning with the frame. Wedding bonnets were sold. Another milliner was Mrs. A. A. Westfall. She also was a dressmaker. Stores in these days sold womens dress goods but no ready made dresses. Thomas H. Murray was in the dry goods business. Tom as he was usually called was a whole souled, and genial storekeeper. He was one of the oldest merchants in town and had sold out and bought back several times. Gibson & Lawrence also had a dry goods store. They ran what Thralls calls an Indiana store, i.e. they sold most anything a person had need for. In exchange for goods they took country produce. Another general dry goods store was kept by William H. Spayde & Co. The company was Mr. Shorb. Conant & Moore had a general store and sold general merchandise and also furniture. Many of the men who work at their factory traded here. O. H. Aborn of Warsaw was their book keeper. These stores all presented a neat appearance and command a large share of trade. J. W. Bradshaw was an attorney in the Reed building and J. H. Taylor was an attorney and had his office in the Hayes Block. They are both young men, says Thralls, industrious and deserve the patronage of the town. Dr. Hays was the oldest physician in town. He rode all about the township when people were poor



and could not pay. Thralls says that the doctor used to buy drugs of him at Warsaw back in the 1850's. Hayes was once thrown from his buggy and injured. The doctor, he says, is now in good circumstances and is well along in years. Four other doctors were Dr. Marshall, Dr. Long, Dr. Callett, and Dr. Matchett. Dr. F. E. Olney was a dentist in the Hayes Block. Olney in later life went to Las Vegas, New Mexico. In the basement of the Hayes Block they found H.M. Hayes running an ice cream stand. A restaurant was in connection where one could buy a sandwich for 5¢, a cup of coffee for 5¢ and a full dinner for 25¢. The day must have been hot for they say this was the only cool place they found in town. Hayes set them up to the cigars and they rested there for a long time. They next visited a billiard hall kept by Mr. Duck. Duck sold no liquor for which they complimented him. Next they met their old friend D. P. Nichols, the agent for the railroad company. Dwight was almost an institution in Pierceton for he had been there so long. He was the first one to sell goods in town according to Thralls. In connection with his railroad work Nichols bought up grain and produce and shipped it to eastern markets. They found Minnich Bros. dealing in hardware. They had a tin shop in connection and did all kinds of repairing. They also sold agricultural instruments a display of which would be interesting to us today. This was the day of cradels for wheat, of up and down churns, of five and ten gallon crocks, of vinegar barrels, of high four legged cook stoves with the oven next to the pipe, of heavy iron room stoves made for burning wood. Coal had not yet come into use except for blacksmiths and a load of wood could be bought on the streets of Pierceton for \$1.50. It paid sometimes to investigate the kind of wood before a person bargained for it. Maybe it was water elm. top. below and oak on



Anderson & Dowling were another hardware firm in Pierceton in 1869. Snyder & Brother were dealers in boots and shoes. They also dealt in leather findings. Boots and shoes were made to order if the customer did not want to buy a pair made in the east. J. L. Garber also sold boots and shoes. Many a small boy enjoyed his first pair of red topped boots. L. L. Lampson was in the harness business. Harness making was an art followed by skilled men. Heavy harness was made for work horses and lighter weight for driving. The finer sets were decorated with buckles and other ornamental trimmings. Sleigh bells were sold in season. In winter when sleighing was good the streets of Pierceton were good runways for sleighs and bob sleds. Another harness maker was William Fenton. They found John Castater finishing up the new house for Mr. Conant. This house is south on the main street. The Sherman Hotel near the depot was presided over by Thomas Graven. At this place they took dinner and were waited on by polite young ladies. The rates at a hotel in 1869 were \$1.00 a day. At the Crawford House, another hotel they found Messrs. Steel and Clover in charge. B. F. Andlaeur was the man who did the tailoring in town. William Brace was a town barber. A barber then had many customers who wore beards. Trimming the beard was part of the barbers work. Lincoln, Grant, Hayes, and Garfield were four presidents who wore beards. Harvey Hostetter had a livery barn where he had ten horses and could fit out most an kind of a rig one would desire. Buggies, sleighs, surreys, cabs, and sample wagons were in demand by runners, tourists, and people who wanted to take a ride on Sunday afternoon. Some people who drove to town would put their horses up at the barn and get them in the evening. The charge was 25¢ a horse. One usually found horses they used to own or some they would like to own. men loafing around the office at the livery barns talking about



Miscellaneous Matters.



In this day of good roads and fast automobile service and still faster airplane travel there are many people living who know nothing about the old horse and buggy days of the 1860's and on up to the early 1900s. Roads into Pierceton were so bad in the spring that the only way some people could get to town was by horseback or by shank's mare. Horse trading took up a good part of some peoples time. A man would drive a certain horse to town and drive home with another one. Hitchracks were all along the main streets of Pierceton and cobblestone gutters kept the horses from pawing holes in the ground. Then there were feed yards where horses could be unhitched and feed from the wagon bed. A gang of gypsies would come to the outskirts of the town and while the men of the gang would trade horses the gypsie women would be uptown telling fortunes. ^{and picking up another, they would trade} There were many tricks to the horsetrading game and many a time a farmer drove home an animal not nearly as good as the one he had. Certain medicine could be given a heavy- horse that had the heaves that would tide him over for a few hours until the new owner was a long ways from the man who traded it to him. The age of a horse could be told by looking at his teeth. It was hard to fool a good horseman on the age of a certain animal. A gypsie might proclaim his age to be three years when, if the truth were known, he would never see fifteen again. No week around town was complete without at least one runaway. These were sometimes serious. Horses became frightened at something blowing down the street or scared at the trains and when frightened they seemed to run as though they were blind. People risked their own lives by trying to stop a runaway. Horse racing on Sunday afternoons used to be a common pastime out in the country. A good straight road about a mile long would be selected and blocked off as a track.



William O. Kyle was born in Summit County, Ohio in 1834. As a boy he moved around with his parents to Noble County, Indiana, VanWert County, Ohio, and to Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where his father conducted a & cooper shop for a large flouring mill. At the age of 22 he made an extended trip over parts of the United States but returned to Indiana to live. In 1858 he married Miss Rachael Wagner. Later in this year he settled in Washington Township where he was living in 1879. His farm consisted of 100 acres of which he had cleared 75. He was a prominent citizen of the township. The Kyle farm was in the extreme northeast corner of the township east of Ridinger Lake and a cooper shop is shown along the road. It was north of Firestone's land. Theodore J. Heagy was born October 6, 1832 in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. His father was a well to do farmer. In 1839 the family moved to Montgomery County, Ohio and some years later to Wayne County, Indiana. Here Mr. Heagy grew to manhood. In 1856 he married Miss Mary E. Barnes and they came to Washington Township in 1872. In 1878 he was "made an Odd Fellow" in Pierceton. In 1879 there were seven children in the family. The Heagy farm was 1 1/2 miles east of town and a mile north. A tile factory was on the ^{Heagy} Cummins farm at the crossroads. The Cummins school No. 8 was on the northwest corner of the cross-roads.

In looking over the map of Washington Township for 1879 we find some of the largest farms to be owned by the following people. William C. Matchett owned about the whole section just west of Pierceton. Alfred Hoover owned 320 acres a mile east of town on the north side of the road. The William Bussing Estate comprised about 360 acres over in the northwest part of the township. To



4

the southeast of town the Deardorf estate had 236 acres. Farms containing 160 acres were numerous. Some of the owners were H. I. Stephens, William H. Gibson, Dennis O'dea, J. Maston, N. Blake, S. Reed, M. P. Chaplin, J. Rafter Jr., C. P. Smith, Daniel Hoover, A. Werstler, Ed Doke, Joseph Garner, S. S. Leedy, Abe K. Leedy, J. C. Humphreys, J. H. Stinson, J. O. Cretcher, T. L. Line, Vincen Makemson Est., Robert Makemson, John Makemson, Fred Elder, S. Perry and L. Tenny. Other names appearing on the map are those of John Cole, M. L. Barbour who laid out Barbour's Addition to Piercetón, E. VanCuren, George Vaness, J. Vanator, J. A. Clemens, A. C. Shanton, J. A. Cummins, J. Hart, W. J. Graham, William Sheely, J. S. Weaver, E. Lautzenhizer, A. G. Adams, and Elias Fashbaugh besides many others.

There were eleven district schools in the township. No. 1 was the Fashbaugh School in Section 2 west of Ridinger Lake. No. 2 was the Makemson School in the center of Section 3. No. 3 was the Morris Chapel School on the Logan farm. The church was across the road on the Outcalt farm. No. 5 was at the southwest corner of the Sheely farm at the south quarter post of Section 7, on the NE corner of the cross-roads. This would now be $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of the Menzie School on former Road 30. No. 6 was the Menzie School at the northeast corner of the Abe K. Leedy farm. Here was a jog in the road and the school was on the east side of the road. About where the present building is there was a sawmill. The old Menzie School is now the Alfran Nursing Home. No. 7 was on the Lramer farm etc at the SW corner of the cross-roads, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of the Cummins school. No. 8 was the Cummins School a mile and a half east and one mile north of Piercetón. No. 9 was the Moore School on the



west side of the road about one mile north of town. It was at the NW corner of a T Road. This was an old school site. It was at the SE Corner of the J. A. Clemens farm. No. 10 must have been at Wooster. No. 11 was at the center post of Section 32 on the J. S. Smith farm. This was one-half a mile west of the Catholic Cemetery on the north side of the road. No. 12 must have been the Ryerson school south ^{west} of town. No. 13 was the railroad school along the tracks on the Galbreath farm in Section 26. This was about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles along the railroad east of Pierceton. Besides these schools there was a school, of course, at Pierceton. ^{No. 4} So we find that the township was well supplied with district schools in the 1870's. We are not able to find No. 4 on the map. Perhaps some oldtimer can elucidate on this. The map shows a cemetery in the NW¹ of Section 3 on the John Makemson farm. There was a sawmill at the northwest corner of the township. There was a cemetery on the McNeal farm in Section 15 Southeast of the German Baptist Church which later was Washington Union, a wind pump on the J. Grow farm in Section in Section 21, this being something new, a mill on the Ryerson farm south of town, and a bad sinkhole in the center of Section 31 now drained by the Keefer-Evans Ditch. People who owned land around Wooster were H. E. Pollock on the east, John Vaness on the north, G. S. Smith on the north, Peter Hoover and Vaness on the west and T. Vaw Vanvleet and John Rafter on the south. Vanvleet used to teach at the Wooster school and Hoover had a store there. P. Brosnahan owned a small tract next to the town plat on the northeast. Wooster was laid out about the same time as Pierceton. The streets were run perpendicular and parallel to the railroad which formation has some merit. A road to the southeast came over to Pierceton.



A person travelling west in 1879 along old Road 30 on the south line of Section 2 would be passing the farms of P. McShane, H. J. McCoffrey, J. Lautzenhizer, L. Brown, and when he came to the cross-roads he would pass school No. 7 on his left. In the next mile he would pass the farm of Mr. John Brown, J. Krauer, Adam Werstler, and Daniel Bennett, and then pass Menzies and McNiels. Thru the next mile it would still be Menzie and Mcneil as far as the German Baptist church, then it would be Am O'Brien on the right and J. H. Orr on the south. Orr later built the large brick house that still stands. In the next mile he would pass the land of Mr. Messrs. Cretcher, O'Brien and J. C. Humphreys, Hart, Abe K. Leedy and Mr. Graham. Then he would pass the old Menzie schoolhouse and the sawmill nearby. The next mile he would go past the home of James Stinson, the home of Margarite Miller and B.A. McCarty. Next were lands of J.H. McConnell and J. Lightfoot. Thru the last mile in the township he would go past the lands of Lightfoots, Vannesses, Sheely, Morris, Bumgardner, and Elder. Half way thru this mile on the right was school No. 5. On the Menzie farm east of the German Baptist Church he would have to cross some pretty soft ground where the present Shanton Ditch is now. This is the outlet of Mud Lake. One-half mile north of the Menzie school was the J. McDaniel farm. One-half a mile south was the Arch Menzie farm and here is the old Menzie home, one of the fine old farmhouses of the county. This old road 30 was the longest straight road in the whole township. The road north and south past the Cummings school was five miles long as a straight road but veered to the west in Section 2 west of Ridinger's Lake. Littles, Blakes, Heagys, Shantons, Dokes, Browns, Watsons, Wakemsons, Trumps, Werstlers, all lived along this road.

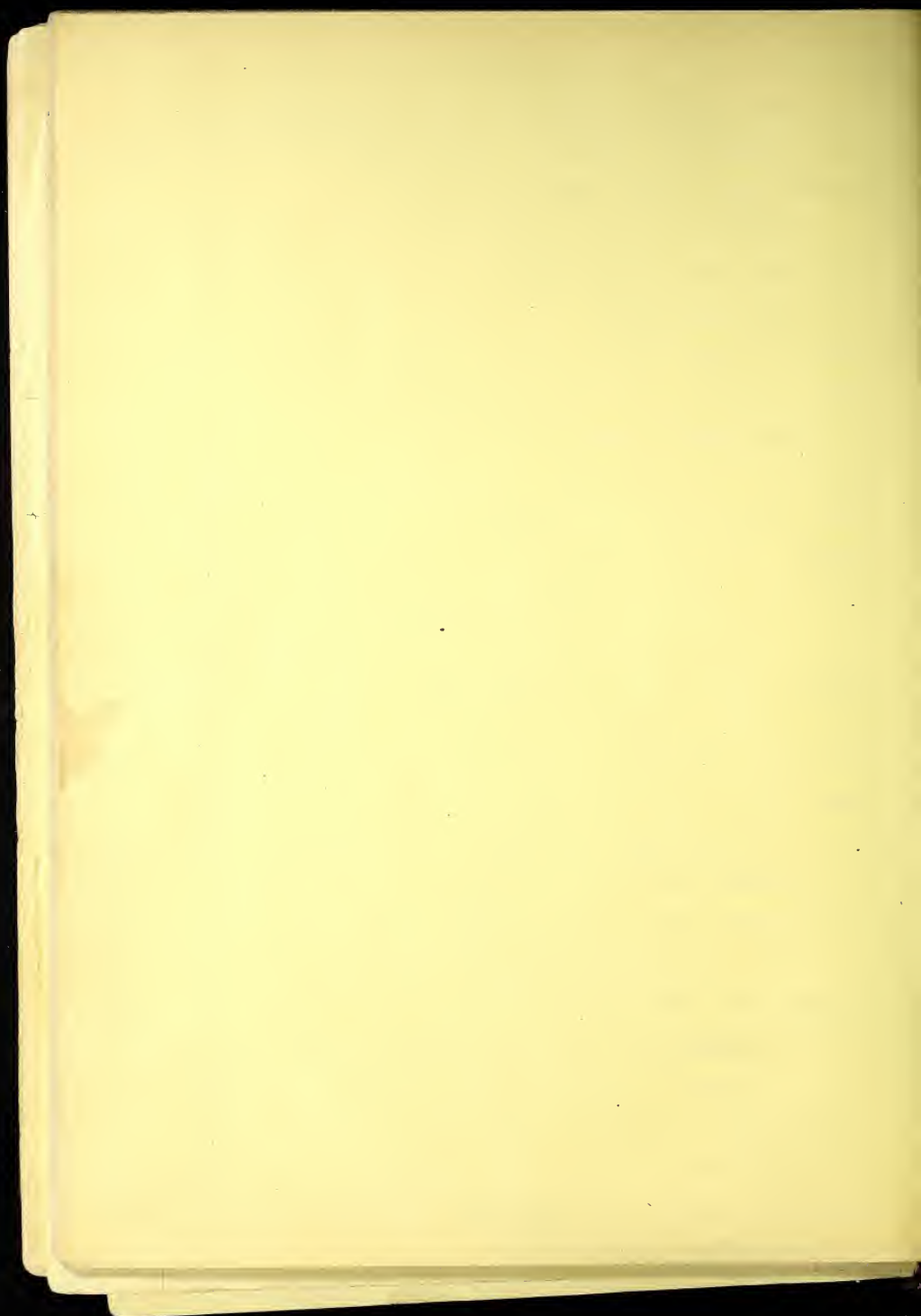


A person riding a horse westward from Larwill in 1879 would have entered the county at the southeast corner of Section 35 on the land of J. E. Hayden. He would have continued to the northwest thru the land of Thomas Cole, John Cole, and Daniel Sleighter. In the next mile he would have passed the farms of John Cole, A. Yohn, Reuben Broadbelt, M. Ryerson and T. P. Ryerson. Here the road crossed Deed's creek and went past some mills. The Ryerson cemetery was on the left at the ^{west quarter post} ~~southeast corner~~ of ~~the~~ Section 34. Then he would cross the W. E. Gibson farm and go past the buildings on the same. Then he would go onto the William Matchett farm and cross Deed's creek again over a bridge whose foundations are still standing. Here he would pass the home of M. E. Switzer on the right. In section 29 he would travel over the land of M. P. Chaplin passing his home on the left. The next farm was William Jolley and then J. R. Walkers. In the last section he would be on the J. H. Anderson farm, M. Truman and McNiel and Dick. Here he would connect with the present straight road to Pierceton. This straight road following the center line of Sections 30 and 29 was built years later. A road ran straight out west from town for a mile and then ^{turned} ~~turned~~ northwest to Wooster. It angled thru the farm of Thomas Rafter and J. Rafter Sr. West of Wooster the road passed the farms of John Vaness, T. J. DeBore, and E. VanCuren. The L. Bibler small farm was to the left and south of this Nancy Royse owned 21 acres. G. M. Dunbar had 70 acres east of Wooster. A picture appears in the atlas of Mr. & Mrs. Firestone and their home also the residence and picture of Mrs. and Mr. Joseph Warner who lived near the south quarter post of Section 17 east of Troehly lake. The Ryerson home is pictured and pictures of George W. and his wife Rebecca. Other pictures show the Heagy farm, the Hoover



farms both Daniel & Alfred. The home of William O. Kyle is also shown. These old pictures are interesting to look at and the maps in this book are very clear and accurate.

Pierceton is on high ground for the most part. The water drain four ways, east, south, west and north. On the east side of town is the Eli Fluke ditch, a tile drain starting north of the tracks and going south into the Andreas ditch. A schoolhouse branch comes into this ditch. The Fluke Ditch goes thru some low ground east of Lee & Raper's house. On the west side of town the Mary Emma Wine Ditch flows west thru the Mort farm and the Westover Farm owned by Suda Smith and Herb Robinson and empties into the same Andreas ditch. The George Knox tile ditch flows north across the tracks and on north to the Leifer ditch and this flows northwest into the Shanton ditch which empties into Ridinger Lake thru the Abraham Elder Ditch. This Elder ditch is shown as Grassy Creek on the old maps. It comes in from the other county and goes thru Robinson Lake. The Abe K. Leedy ditch begins northwest of the corner where Roads 13 and Old 30 cross and flows west and south and west into the Mc Vancuren which goes into the McCarter or Deed's Creek. The Vancuren ditch and its tributary the James Divinney ditch drain the northwest part of the township. The west part of the township is drained by the Bareham-McCleary ditch which empties into the McCarter. The south part of the township is drained by the Unruch and the Sabcock arm of the Wyland ditch. The east part of the township is drained by the Maston ditch, the C. R. Long ditch, and the Shanton ditch all of which form about the longest system in the township. This water goes through Mud Lake and into Ridinger Lake and outlets finally into Kuhn Lake. The whole township is a part of the Mississippi River basin.



In looking thru the transfer books at the Auditor's office for the years 1886 to 1892 we find that lots in Piercetown were listed at from 5 dollars up to \$40 and houses at \$30 up to about \$450.00. The Balliett Mill was listed at \$1000.00. Amelia Hays had property listed at \$2400 and \$1200 which were uptown buildings. People who owned any considerable amount of property in Piercetown were as follows:

Sarah J. Shaffer	William H. Spayde
B. F. Andlauer	Bridget A. Rafter
Balliett & Strauss	Francis Ann Reed
Tim Brosnahan	Sarah Reed
Orrin S. Biglow	Piercetown Wheelbarrow and Mfg Co.
Maurice Brosnahan	William O'Brien
Mary Ann Conrad	Ada A. Nichols
C. G. Coplin	F. V. Minnich
Francis H. Foster	William McNamara
	Kirkham & Estes
John & Augustus Froehley	
Norman J. Guy	A. M. Lawrence
Chas. F. Guy	Lawrence, Spayde & Co.
Wm. J. Graham	E. A. Long
Pat Calvin	E. J. Long
Amelia Hays	Dora F. Hatchett
Henry Hackett	Ann Mosier
	Jacob Miller
	Henry Wiseman
John E. Hayden	
William Harvout	
Daniel Hoover	
Davis S. Hat Hayden	
William Hays	
James Johnson	
John S. Hays	
Aaron M. Simpson	
Eva L. Shanton	
Susan J. Snyder	

Reeds and O'Brien seemed to own quite a bit of the town.

There is evidence of many sheriff sales during this period.

At Wooster some of the land owners were J. M. Bash, Phillip Baker, Michael Dailey, Anna Finton, Peter Hoover, Wade Harris, Isaac Jackson, Sylvanus King, Darius Pollock, Mary Streiby and

Sarah Vanness. In this village lots were listed as low as \$5.

It would be interesting to consult the books for 1893-4 when the country was going thru through one of its worst panics.



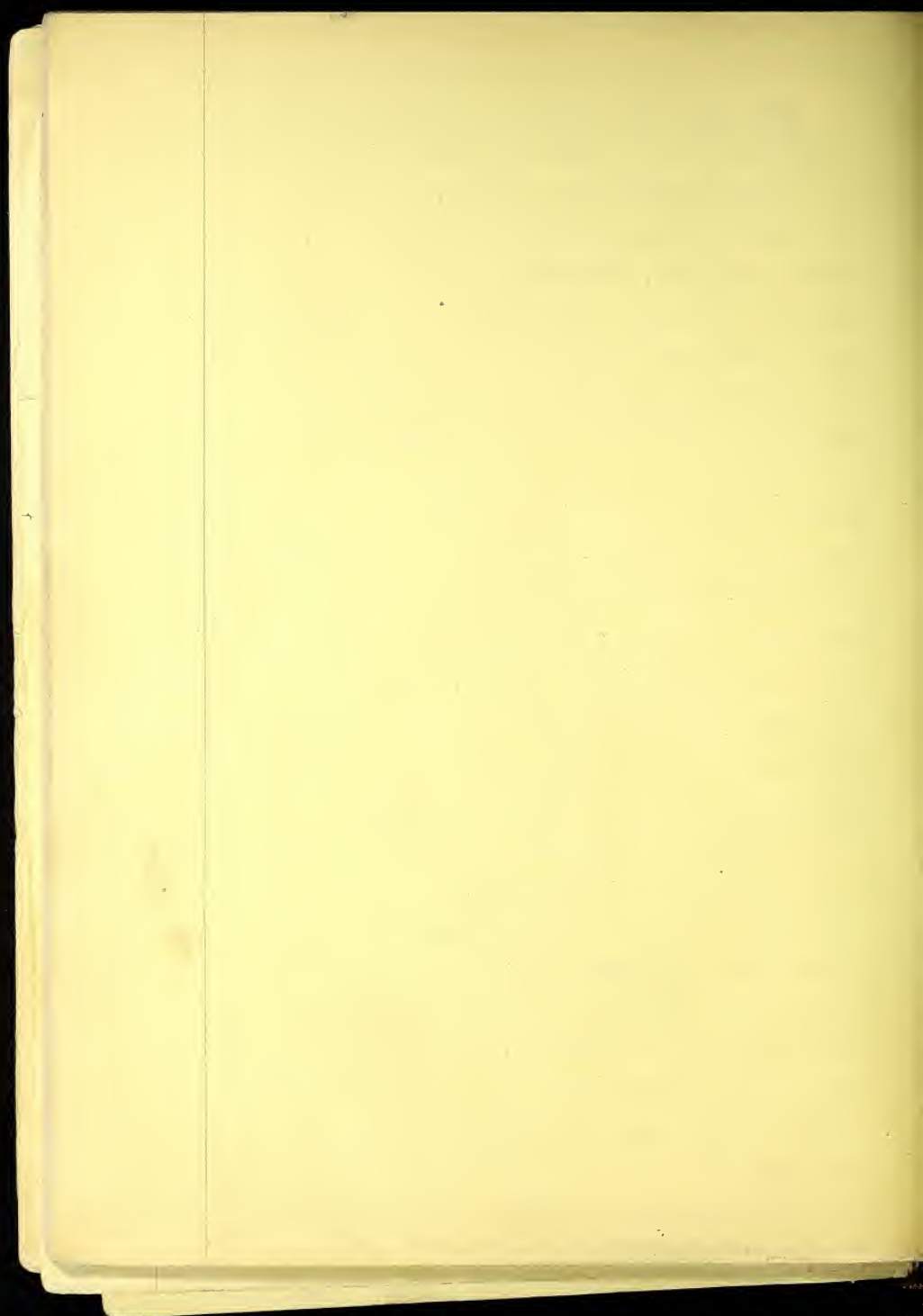
Piercetown after 1900.



In 1910 some of the business houses in Pierceton were as follows. E. E. Ashley was dealer in furniture, rugs, draperies, and was also the town undertaker. Beyer Brothers & Co. were produce shippers. M. F. Brosnahan was dealer in hardware harness and implements. The store was known as the Brosnahan Hardware Co. The Corner Store was run by L. J. McMeekin. It was a general store dealing in dry goods, shoes, furnishings, and groceries. Davison & Price were grain and hay shippers. Deardorff & Orr kept groceries and meats. G. D. Gill had a hardware and implement store. Monroe Dill dealt in dry goods, shoes, notions and groceries. Levi Dohner had a grocery with a restaurant in connection. S. B. Draper dealt in flour and feed. John & Augustine Froehly were running the Exchange Bank. Jack Foster was agent of the Pennsylvania Railroad. John Gibson had a junk yard. Painting & paper hanging was done by Loie Grindle, and by William Grindle. Alice Hass was a seamstress. Charlie Hass was a clerk. H. D. Heagy dealt in drugs. J. R. Hoover was manager of the Pierceton Record. John M. Humphreys made brooms. Fred Helfrich was a barber. Lee Jackson was a blacksmith. W. Kilpatrick & Dill had a hardware store. Fraus and Apfelbaum dealt in grain, seed & wool. Alfred L. Kuhn was the town marshall. A. G. Liefer had a monument yard. B. E. Liefer had a bakery and restaurant. James B. Vancuren was the hotel keeper at the Leland House. J. P. Lipps had the planing mills. Margaret Logan was a photographer. Matchett Bros. & Co. ran the peoples bank. The brothers were J. K. & W. F. Matchett. Orr & Switzer had a drug store. It was called the Peoples Drug Store. Pletcher & Son sold groceries and meats. This was L.L. and W.H. Pletcher. W. S. Price dealt in hay, grain, coal, feed, lime and cement. Radcliff Brothers had a general store. C.O. & J.L. Radcliff.



Harry Reid had a billiard hall. Mike Ryan ran a restaurant. J. F. Bailo dealt in hardware, plumber supplies, stoves, paints & oils. Sherman Shirley was a barber. J. J. Snyder was a wagon and carriage maker. Claude Trump was a blacksmith. J. Trump dealt in wagons, carriages, blacksmithing and horseshoeing. W. H. VanWormer was a shoe maker. Hayden Wiley was a drayman. Wine Brothers had a livery, feed and sale stables. These were Ham Wine, James R. Wine and John A. Wine. F. Zintsmaster sold general merchandise. And such were some of the business houses in Pierceton 41 years ago. ¹²¹¹ Forty-one years ago in Pierceton Samuel Baker was a railroader. Charlie Balliet was a railway postal clerk, William H. Beebe was a travelling salesman. His wife and four children lived a happy life and they went to school. J. D. Bell was a drug clerk and afterwards owned a store of his own. Frank & Sherman Black were carpenters. I. N. Bryan owned a sawmill. Mary Bryan was a nurse. George H. Clouse was a concrete worker, Tom Cole dealt in poultry, Ben Cretcher was a clerk. F. L. Davis was a telegraph operator. Bernice Dicks was a music teacher. W. L. Dick was with the Brosnahan hardware company. Inez Downs was a teacher. Wesley P. Downs was a section foreman. Mary Dudley was a telegraph operator. William H. Finton was a plasterer. DeEtta Fluke was a student. Tom Fluke was a carpenter. Charles H. Foster was a mail clerk on the railroad. Charles Gillespie was a painter. Nellie Galvin was a teacher. August Goering was a towerman. U. S. Graham was a rural mail carrier. James D. Greer was a railroad carpenter. Donald E. Guy was a fireman. Victor Haman was a painter. Joe Hanson was an electrician. Grace Hass was a clerk in the postoffice. Rev. Paul Heilighman was one of the ministers of the town. Anna & Jeanette James were dress-makers, A. E. Johnson was a veterinary surgeon.



O. R. Keller was a salesman. M. P. Kilpatrick was a milliner. John Kissinger was a plastering contractor. Loren Knox was a mail clerk on the railroad. Carl Knull had an auto garage. Autos were still a pretty scarce article. C. E. Leedy was a physician and surgeon. Gertrude Leedy was a telegraph operator. A good one in those days was paid about \$65.00 a month. Ira C. Little was a barber. Edith and Maud Leiter were teachers. N. C. Leiter was a barber. Lewis Lipps was a telegraph operator. These were the days of single tracks on some roads and train orders were given to most passing trains. C. R. Long was a well known physician and surgeon. Florence & Lena Long were students. Frank Long was a rural mail carrier. Free delivery had been started about 1900. Walter Long^{buggy} was also a rural mail carrier. These were the days of the horse and buggy. Homer Longfellow was one of the towns attorneys. His wife was Carrie Longfellow who afterwards became a teacher. I. Z. Longfellow was a teacher. Matthew L. was an attorney. Sarah V. Longfellow was a stenographer. Catherine McDaniels was a dressmaker. Ross McNamara was a machinist. J. W. Maston was a cement worker. James Matchett was a baker. Jess Matchett was also a baker. Tuck Miller was a laborer. Ambrose Moses was a mail clerk on the railroad. His wife was Kate Moses. Norbert Moses was in the Navy. L. D. Nichols was agent for the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. This position was connected with this family for many years. Willis O'Brien was a railroader. When any engineer or fireman^{from Danville} went thru town he gave a well known signal with the whistle. J. M. Perry was an electrician. Harry Phillips fired on the railroad. John Phillips was a printer. Fred Pletcher was a rural mail carrier. L. L. Pletcher was a grocer. E. M. Quay ran a pool room. H. F. Radcliff was the post aster. R. R. Radcliff was with Ried-Murdocks.



Elmer Rallings was a travelling salesman. Charles D. Reed was head sawyer at the saw mill. Harry Reed was a clerk. Loren Reid Reidinger was a showman. Homer Sailor was a clerk. Clarence Banner drove the creamery wagon. Carl W. Schlutsmeier was manager of the Reid-Murdock Plant west of town. Charles Schrom was assistant cashier of the Peoples Bank. Fred Schrom was a bookkeeper. James R Schrom ran the elevator. John Schuman was a well driller. Leroy Scoles was a teacher as was Marie Shanton. Frank Shorbe worked at the power house. Abner Sipes was a wood worker. L. C. Smith was a dealer in coal. H. T. Smith was a dentist. Orton B. Smith was a dentist. B. D. Snyder was a carpenter. John C. Snyder was an auto driver. Joseph Speigle was a railroader. Onadore Strunk was a carpenter. Joseph H. Taylor was a gardener. Mabel Taylor was a teacher. Claude Trump was a blacksmith. Harry Trump was a tinner. Charles Underwood drove a creamery wagon. Eugene Underwood worked at the planing mill. Maxwell Underwood was a tin plate worker. Lena Ward was a stenographer. E. J. Watson was a huckster. Miles Weddle worked for Beyer Brothers. Orange Wiley was a barber. Earl Wine was a ~~bar~~ barber. Fred Wolford was a lineman. Eva Wones was a teacher. Am R. Wones was a minister. Ella Yohn was a teacher. Walter Yontz was a teamster. J. F. Zehner was a lineman. Skilled mechanics in these days recieved three or four dollars a day. Working men were paid about \$2.00 a day or less. Teachers recieved about \$50 a month and section men on the railroad about \$40 a month. Rents were correspondingly cheap for a house came at from \$3 to \$9. ^{a month} Eggs were 15¢ a dozen, bacon 3 pounds for a quarter, ham about the same, and side meat 5¢ a pound. 25 or 30 cents bought a lot of steak and for a dollar one could walk out of a grocery store with quite a basket full of groceries. Butter was about 12¢ a pound.



People who owned farms in Washington Township in 1920 in amounts of quarter sections were about as follows. They were George & Blanch Weimer, Hiram Orr, John Makenson, Hal Wright, John Perry, Dr. A. O. Newlin, Lyman Menzie, Outcelts, Kuhn & Davis, Edna Cole, John E. Miller, J. W. Brower, Reuben Leifer, William F. Matchett, Mary MacFarland, Mary Galvin, Hulda M. Ayers, A. M. Mc Namara, Ezra & Bessie Covert, Emma J. & C. R. Long, Susan Maynard, Amos Stump, Lyman Dill, Stanley Weaver, Royse Clover, Lewis H. Vernet, George Auer, John M. Unruch, Nettie M. Kirkpatrick, and William & Minnie Kirkendall. Many others, of course, owned farms in the township but these were picked at random. The 1920's was marked by the building of three mile roads. ^{Stanley Boggs} Don Lessig and Billy Taylor were surveyors during these years. We helped some in the office. Some of the roads built by E. A. Gast or other contractors were the Leifer Road north of town now covered by Road 13, the Hooster Road west of that village, the Stinson Road, ^{and the Leifer Road south of that town} and the road out west of town called the Kissinger Road. ^{These were all concrete} ^{and the Leifer Road south of that town} and well made but the pavements were made 16 feet ^{wide} instead of ^{about} 20. ^{the Kissinger Road} ^{to the west of town} ^{the Leifer Road is now part of road 13} Mickeys were the contractors on the Leifer Road. Hiram E. Smith and I arrived there one morning and Mae Mickey was in a car. She said, "Mr. Nye, would you please tell Mr. Boggs to send someone out here to give us some grade stakes." I replied "What do you think we are out here for?". Another time when we appeared with a red neck tie on she told me my nose was bleeding. There was in the 20's a law that a road could be petitioned not to exceed three miles in length and that the Township paid the bill. Then a law came out that the indebtedness could not exceed 4% ^{of the valuation} and since it was above this already road building stopped. In a few years the County Road Department was created.



In the 1920's when we were teaching at Pierceton it was a busy trading point. The streets had been paved and the one past the library was paved in 1923. We got out the specifications for this street. It has held up good because it has not been cut to pieces by digging for pipe lines etc. Red Smith was then the editor of the Record in the old building just south of the railroad. Liefers had the grocery store on the corner south and west of this was the Overall Factory. Schroms had a hardware store as did Kuhn & Davis. Mr. Switzer was the barber and Mr. Booth was another. Matchetts had the insurance and bond office. Radcliffs store was one of the oldest in town. Charlie Nye who sold clothing on the road in the 1890's sold goods to them. There was ^{only} one hotel ^{at that time} run by Mrs. Greer, a sister of Dr. Leedy. Below the hotel was a furniture store and next door a pool hall. The Citizens Bank was just south of the alley. Jean Hart worked here. A Mr. Shepard from Redkey had a 5 and 10 ^{North of the alley at the corner of the alley} just north of the alley and north of Kuhn & Davis. Mr. Harold Switzer had a very complete drug store and soda fountain. ^{Mr. Bell had a drug store on the corner of the alley} There was no picture show in town but one started some time later. The Pierceton Lumber Company was going strong north of the tracks. ^{Dr. McHenry had the lumber yard} Dr. Shultz had a hospital down south on the Main street. Dr. Kuhn came down from South Bend for surgery work. The Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist and Catholic churches were all well attended. The first three would have a big home coming dinner every fall. Trains still stopped at Pierceton. A morning train went west about 9 o'clock and a passenger going east stopped there about 8:30 ^{pm}. Mr. Davis was the gateman. He also assisted in giving plays. It is said that the night man on the gates would put them down about midnight and leave them down and go to sleep. Dr. Long was about the only man out and he went under at the subway a block west.



The Main Street in 1935

In 1935 we were surveying the Abe E. Leedy Ditch and we took our dinners at Kilgore's restaurant. While sitting on a bench we recorded the names of the stores as they were that summer. On the west side beginning at the railroad was the Pierceton Record, then a filling station and then the street. Going on south was Bernie Sunny's grocery and market, the Rider pool room, the Haftman Grocery, then Krogers grocery, than a cafe and then came Sweitzer's drug store, Pletcher's grocery, a shoe shop, Leiter's barber shop, a pool hall then a vacant room and then the alley. Across the alley the old bank room was vacant. Then came Ben Hersher's grocery, the P&O Hardware store, Dr. Shult's office, a vacant room, and the corner room was vacant. On across was the library and then Snyder's garage.

Going south on the east side was the postoffice probably with McCarter as postmaster. Then came Kilgore's restaurant, then a feed store in a small frame. Then came the alley and the hardware store, then Radcliffs general store with Oscar as clerk. Then came a tin shop, a barber shop and Matchett's insurance office. These were in frame buildings. Then there was another barber shop, then a vacant room and then the alley. Next in a one-story frame was a shoe repair shop and then a dwelling. Next was vacant and then a three front brick housing the Ford-Hewitt garage. This burned about 1941 and the Legion Hall replaces the south part. Then came a street and then a filling station. The building⁵ then were practically the same as today in 1952.



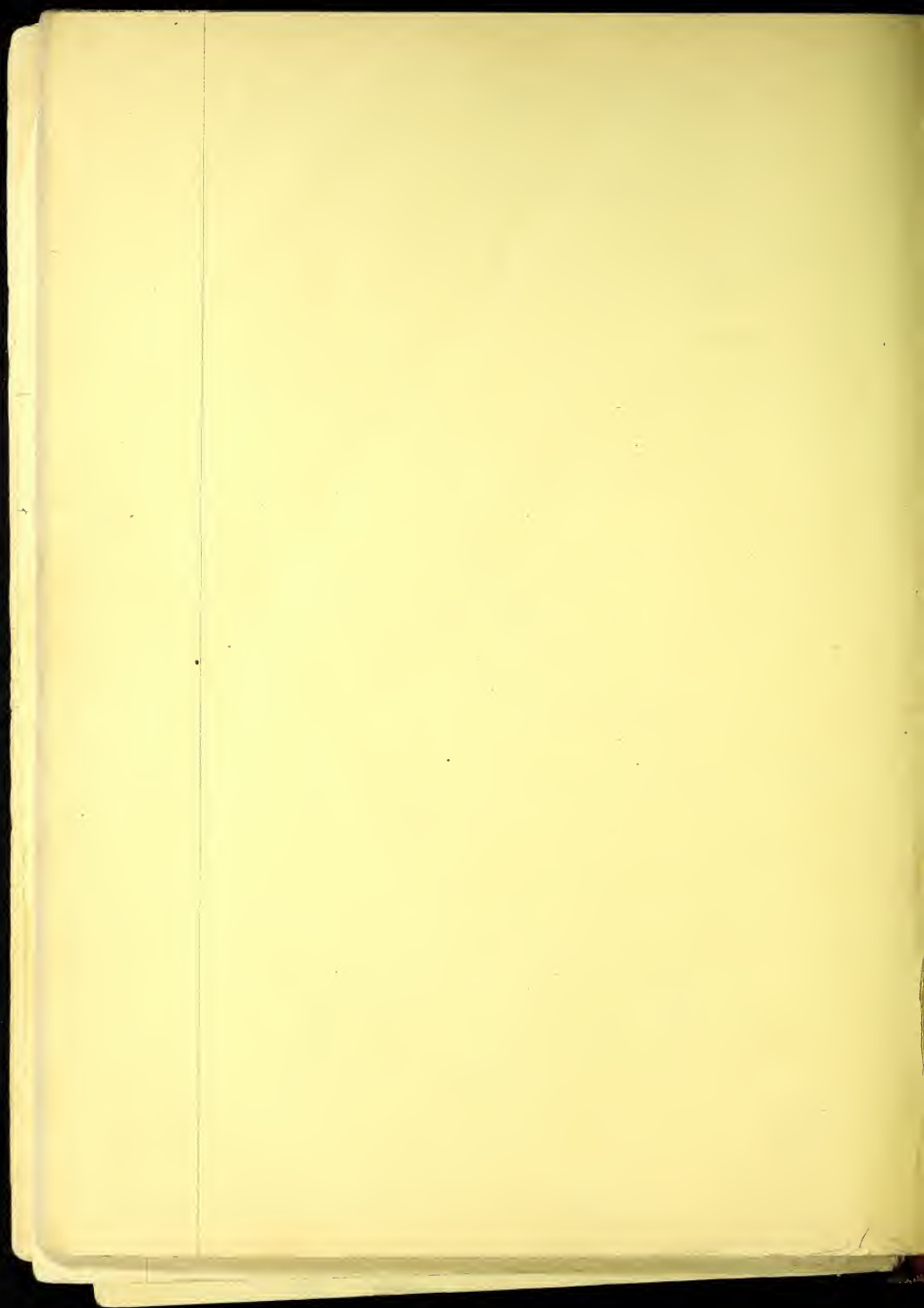
Pierceton in 1852.



In March ¹⁹⁵¹~~1951~~ the lineup of stores at Pierceton on the east side of the Main Street was as follows. Going south from the railroad park we come first to the postoffice corner with Eddie Pequignot as postmaster. Next is Milgores restaurant. These are in a two story brick building. Milgore has been there for perhaps 15 years. Next in a frame one story building is John Eiltz' restaurant. He started this about a year ago. Crossing the alley we come to a vacant room and next is Beattie's department store. This is also a brick two story building. Next we come to the Coors roofing and heating store, Hiveley's shoe repair, and Nancy Matchett's insurance office. These last three are frames. In the Odd Fellows Brick building next south is Dr. Herring's office and south of it ^{ing operated by Claude Stahl} is a clean and repair shop. Then there is a storage room. Crossing the alley we come to an old frame shell which is vacant, then a stucco dwelling, a vacant lot and then ^{Maceville} the Legion Home which is only a year or so old. It is on the corner where a garage burned some years ago. Crossing the street to the south we find the Mort Filling Station and south of it the Ashley Funeral Home. The Legion Home is the only new building in this stretch. They have a good post here. They have square dancing every Saturday evening. This street has been recently paved by the State and it is a very pleasant street to live on. The Presbyterian church is down a few blocks on the east side on the northeast corner of an intersection. Further down on the edge of town is the schoolhouse yard east of a very fine building. The new road makes a gentle curve to the right after leaving town and thus avoids the old right angled turns of the horse and buggy days. About 8 miles takes one to Sidney and another 7 to ^{Nich} Manchester.



On the west side of the main street beginning at the railroad we find the fire station. Next is a snack bar. Then on the corner is the Standard Filling Station. This is a brick block. Crossing the street to the south we come to Bernie Summy's grocery and meat market. Bernie is a large man and good natured. West of him is ^{UNITED Telephone CO. BLDG} the old overall factory. South of Summys is a barber shop. Then comes Lenwell's furniture store occupying two fronts. Then comes the Smith speciality shop, then Fowley's Drug Store. This is a Rexall store. Then the I. G. A. Supermarket has two fronts. Then comes a store where they sell Philco Appliances. Next is Bailey's barber shop. Next is Claude and Alma's beer joint. Then next to the alley is Baxter's 5 and 10¢ store. Above these last two stores there used to be the Leland Hotel. Crossing the alley to the south we come to the Pierceton Bank, then to a restaurant, and then to the B. & O. Hardware Store. South of this is the Pierceton Press. The Pierceton Record is still published once a week. Next there is a beauty salon and in the next two rooms are Fred Beebe's two stores. The south one is an antique shop where one can buy anything from an old cow bell to a Grandfather's clock. Across the street to the south is the library built in 1916 with the help of the Andrew Carnegie fund. South of this is the Snyder garage which has been there for 25 years. South of it is a factory owned by a Columbia City corporation. ^{WHITLEY PRODUCTS} West of Beebe's is a non-^{North}ment shop. East of the tracks on the east side of the Main Street is the buildings of the Pierceton Lumber Company. They have much invested and are building on the west side of the street just north of the tracks. It is now operated by Mr. Spann. The Methodist church is a block or so north on the NE corner of the intersection. It has recently been remodelled and is very attractive.



The antique store such as Mr. Beebe has at Pierceton is a new kind of a store that has come into being within the last 25 years. They are along all the main highways and cater to tourists and people who have cabins at the lake. The idea of a lake cabin has come into vogue with improved roads and automobiles. In an antique store we find those things which were in our homes and on our farms fifty or seventy-five years ago. Of course the price is exorbitant compared to what it was when those things were common in our stores. We paid \$6.00 at Beebe's for three goblets made of glass, which in Froehly Brothers store in Pierceton in 1879 on the present postoffice corner, would have cost one about 75%. But one can expect this because such things are "out of print". Beebe has old dinner bells, sleigh bells, teachers small school bellsto call in the children from the play grounds, old fashioned hanging lamps, grandfather clocks, mantle clocks, and old kitchen clocks. He may even have an old sleigh or a conrad or Snyder wagon made in Pierceton seventy-five years ago, wagon wheels seem to be in demand as ornaments in the front yard. In some antique stores we have seen little negro boys that used to be hitch racks to hold the horses from wandering away. Some of these used to be out in front of the homes in some cases in Pierceton. Statues of Indians that used to be a sign for a cigar store are seen once in a while. It is possible too to make an antique. At Culver in the library at the Military Academy there are two library tables. One is a for sure oldtimer but the other was made recently. One cannot tell them apart for they look alike. Old dishes make up much of the stock around an antique store. The style of dishes seems to change quite a bit as do the styles of wearing apparel. Old dishes have a certain charm and beauty.



It is a far cry from the old grocery store of McMeekin in 1910 and a farther one from the store of William H. Graves of 1879 to the modern cash and carry chain store of the present day. The I. G. A. supermarket in Pierceton is somewhat on the same order. Clerks used to weight out the amount a person wanted and figure out the cost and tie the purchase into a bundle. The old-time scales had weights. Later self computing scales came into use. About the only thing that was already tied up was a quarters worth of coffee & sugar. This was done on Friday for Saturdays trade. Beans, coffee, rice, crackers, ginger snaps, hominy, brown sugar, granulated sugar, etc. all had to be weighed out and packaged when it was bought. Tobacco was sold in cuts off of a plug and a nickles worth or a dimes worth cut off by a cutter when it was purchased. Horseshoe tobacco was a good seller. If a person saved the tags he might get a mantle clock for about a thousand ^{tags}. Battleax was another good seller. Coffee came packaged but much was sold in bulk and even green coffee was sold and roasted in the home. The customer could have coffee ground in the big "arm strong" coffee grinder found in every grocery store or he could grind it at home as used in a small coffee mill. This is another gadget now to be found at Beebe's antique store. There was not much canned goods in the old grocery store. One might find peaches, corn, and succotash, and peas. Much dried fruit was sold. Grocers had dried apples, dried peaches, prunes etc. Dried herrings and mackerel and white fish was kept at most stores. The old cigar case ~~cent~~ contained several brands that were home made. The popular price for a cigar was five cents. A few people could afford a ten cent cigar but not many. No green garden products were sold in the winter and not much, if any, in the summer for people had their own gardens.



The old store, too, was a place to loaf and talk over the town gossip and hear the latest on politics. This would go on until the proprietor decided to close up about 10 P.M. Stores opened early in the morning and kept open until late at night. Kerosene lamps hanging from the ceiling furnished the lights until about 1895 when incandescent lights came into style. All of this is changed in the modern grocery store where the customer goes about the store with a carry all and picks from the shelves what they want. Meat is the only food not already weighed out and wrapped. In the case of bacon it comes already wrapped and weighed. When the customer has selected all they want they end up at the exit counter where the bill is added up on a machine, the food is sacked or boxed, the customer pays the bill and the deal is finished. There is little if any sentiment connected with the trading. No credit is extended as in early day. Many a grocerman years ago furnished food to poor families during the long winter when the man was out of work hoping to be repaid the next summer when their condition would perhaps be better. Now everything is wrapped as a matter of health. Years ago bread was not wrapped. In fact it was not sold in grocery stores but baked in the home. Butter was ~~brought~~ brought in and traded for groceries. A good store on Saturday would take in five or six cases of eggs a few dozen from each farmer. Fastidious women buying butter would want to taste it. The clerk would give them a taste on the end of a butcher knife. Butter from certain families in the country was spoken for in advance. Eggs were not sorted but any person bringing in soiled eggs found that the store would turn them down. The candy case in the old grocery stores contained some chocolates, peppermints, wintergreens and on the shelves was stick candy in jars.



The earlier history of Pierceton like that of every other town in the county had to do with saloons. Pierceton had more than its share of these places and stories in the old papers tell of the troubles between the saloon element and the people who wanted to rid the town of this drink nuisance. In the 1870's the women formed a club known as the crusaders. They were so intent in getting a change that they picketed the saloons and tried to persuade men, especially the younger ones, from going into the place^s. This picketing went on from six in the morning until the place finally closed up at night. Sometime during the day ~~that~~ they would hold services out in front. Some saloonkeepers would ~~in~~ invite them in and one even furnished them song books to sing from. Men wore red and blue ribbons pinned on them by the women. One color meant a total abstainer, the other a temperate drinker. As we have said before the women of Pierceton cleaned out one of the joints and were acquitted. In Bourbon one old saloon keeper slipped upstairs with a bucket of sour beer and dashed it down on the women below. Every person who wanted to run a saloon had to get a license thru the commissioners court so the names of these old saloon keepers of Pierceton are all on record. The notice had to be published stating where their saloon was to be. The modern beer joint is perhaps not as bad as the old saloon except that no women were around the old saloon. Then too the old saloon had blinds in front so a person could not see in. Drinking used to cause more fist fighting on the street than we have now. No week was complete without a fistic encounter in some saloon. One bully was in a Warsaw saloon ^{once} saying what he could do. The marshall was a small man and the bully ~~asked~~ asked "How may are there of you"?



^{John}
A Mr. Gleason heard the commotion and stepped in. Gleason was a big man. He asked the marshall "Where do you want him"? Gleason picked him up and dumped him in the gutter as one would dump so much rubbish. Liquor had different effects on a man. Some became very funny and acted like a clown. Others were boosted up in importance and could lick any man in the house. Such a character would be taken on by somebody to find out that his sphere included too many people. Most of them would not get actually drunk but would have enough sense left to get home alone where he would find his poor little wife trying to make ends meet with a family of young children. Perhaps it was pay day that she had been looking forward to only to find that about ten dollars of his pay had gone to the saloon. Then too a saloon keeper could tell some customer on pay day that he ran up a bill there once that month when he was drinking and that he owed so much. This would have to be paid. Then along with a saloon there was more or less gambling in some side room and maybe a few wicked girls stuck off in some anteroom. A man who would sell liquor was usually not above anything that he went with it. Citizens were known to hurl brickbats thru certain windows to clear out the women and men inside. The Temperance League furnished speakers on the subject of Temperance. Many such speeches were made in Pierceton either by outside parties or by men from the town itself. The ministers of any town were usually at the head of this league. Much space is given to these speeches in the old papers, sometimes two or three columns. As we said before no town in the county was free of the saloon blight, even such a place as Packerton and Sevastopol having saloons. The ^{boom} saloon came with the Civil War. Before that time whiskey was sold at grocery stores as a matter of course.



Several hundred telephones operate out of Pierceton today not only to the town but to the country around. The district at Kuhn's Landing is served out of Pierceton as well as that at Ridinger's Lake. We find such calls as the following. Merle Anderson sells welding equipment. Ashley's department store, E. & O. hardware company run by Hermit Summers who lives out by the flowing well on Road 18, Deebe's store, Biltz cafe, Harry Byrer, metal shop, John Camden, contractor, The Consolidated Food Processors which used to be Reid Murdocks, Eri Gas Service, Duckwall Implement store, Gradless & Sons auto body shop, The Gebert Texaco Station at 13 & 30, Rev. Thomas Harrington, Hayden M. Jones, plumber, Jot em down store at Barbee Lake, Lakeland Educational Sales, Marylin's beauty shop, McCarter Feed Mill, Mort's coal company, Mort's service station, Northern Gases Inc., Lelan J. Osborn auctioneer, Pastime Cafe, Pequignot & Lenwell's station, Pickler X-ray corporation, Pierceton Dry Cleaners, Pierceton Elevator Company, Pierceton Furniture Store, Pierceton Light & Water Co. Pierceton Press, Pierceton State Bank, Pierceton Stock Yards, Pierceton Triple Service on Road 50 east, Pierceton Trucking Co., Pierceton Welding Shop, Pleasant View Dairy Bar, Pletcher's IGA market, Pletcher's Locker Plant, Powley's drug store, Rev. E. H. Saunders, Carl Siler's grocery at Riley Memorial Beach, L. B. Slenker, dentist, Snyder Motor Sales, Stickler's Standard Service, Sumney's market & grocery, Trump welding shop, United Telephone Co., Weicht's grocery, J. C. Wine & Co. meat retailers,



One of the biggest plants in Pierceton has been the Reid Murdock Plant west of town. This has now changed hands and is no longer under this name. This plant started some fifty years ago when such plants were at Warsaw and other places. The one at Pierceton has survived the years and is now still employing many people and handling many tons of tomatoes every year. The farmers about the town of Pierceton contract to sell all their tomatoes to the plant and the plant agrees to buy them. Many tons of tomatoes every year are made into catsup and the pleasant smell of this relish lingers over the town for a certain period every fall. During the tomato season trucks will be lined up for blocks waiting to weigh out their load. Clarence Guine used to be one of the tomatoe raisers and tells many yarns of the old tomatoe days. Within the last five years the plant has erected one of the finest tall chimneys to be found anywhere and it may be seen for several miles. One traveling on old road 30 three miles to the north can see the stack at Pierceton. Tomatoes are sold by the ton to the plant and are packed in crates holding about a bushel. Another product the plant used to put out was canned beans. One going along the roads will see many fields planted to tomatoes and in the fall about the time school begins they will need a lot of help to pick tomatoes. Pierceton schools used to start somewhat later than others to give the boys and girls a chance to help. Tomatoes are harvested until the first killing frost comes along and then the tomatoes are spoiled. It is likely that people all over the world have eaten catsup and tomatoes that came from Pierceton. The plant employes a number of people and has been an asset to the town for many years and may be for many more.



The Wooster U. B. Church.

Most of the facts are from the

From the Pierceton Record of April 14, 1937.

Supplied by Chas. Hagg.

The organization of the Wooster U. B. Church dates back to February 22, 1861. It was organized by Rev. Allen Richart. He was the first preacher in charge and his understudy was Rev. John Flack called the junior preacher. The charter member

were:	G. T. Barber,	Daniel Vanness
	B. A. Barber	Mary Harbaugh
	Lyda Hoover	Luy A. Harbaugh
	Hannah Wolford	James Hoover
	Peter Hoover	Martha Hoover
	H. D. Lukus	Mary C. Finton
	H. N. Hoover	Sarah Hoover
	Amasa Pringle	A. Guffton
	Adam Hoover	Josiah D. Finton

In 1865 appear the names of Abraham and Catherin Scott parents of L. G. Scott. Mr. Scott was a member of the first Board of Trustees and for about twenty years was a class leader in the church. The name of L. G. Scott appears first in 1879. William Simon was then pastor. Like his father ^{Scott} ~~he~~ filled important official positions for thirty years. The contribution of such a family in service and finances cannot be estimated.

When Rev. F. B. Miller was pastor in 1865 there was a membership of only 19. By 1868 when Allen Richart was again preacher in charge the membership had increased to 28. Nicholas Castle, later Bishop, was then Presiding Elder.

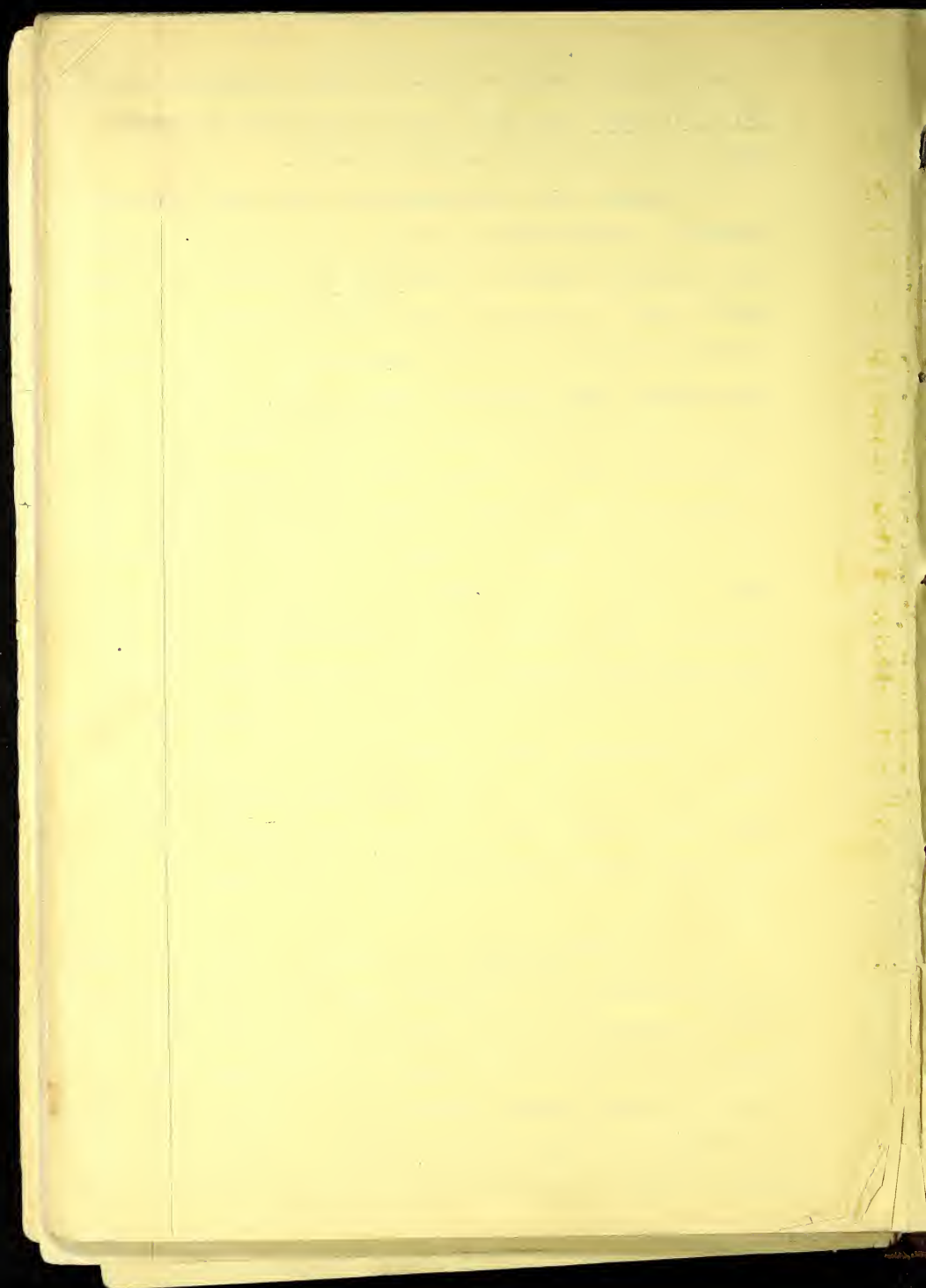
In 1869 Rev. E. Johnson was preacher in charge and a new day seems to have come in the church for the membership then mounted to 58. It is at this time that we first meet the names of Mr. & Mrs. John Vanness. At an early date they became life members of the Missionary Society. For 63 years until the time of his death in 1921 Mr. Vanness was an active member of the church. For sixty years he was a member of the Board of Trustees. He gave liberally and gave the church \$500.00 in his will.



In his will he also gave \$500.00 to the Theological Seminary. Mr. L. G. Scott also gave \$500 to the church the interest on which is to be used for current expenses.

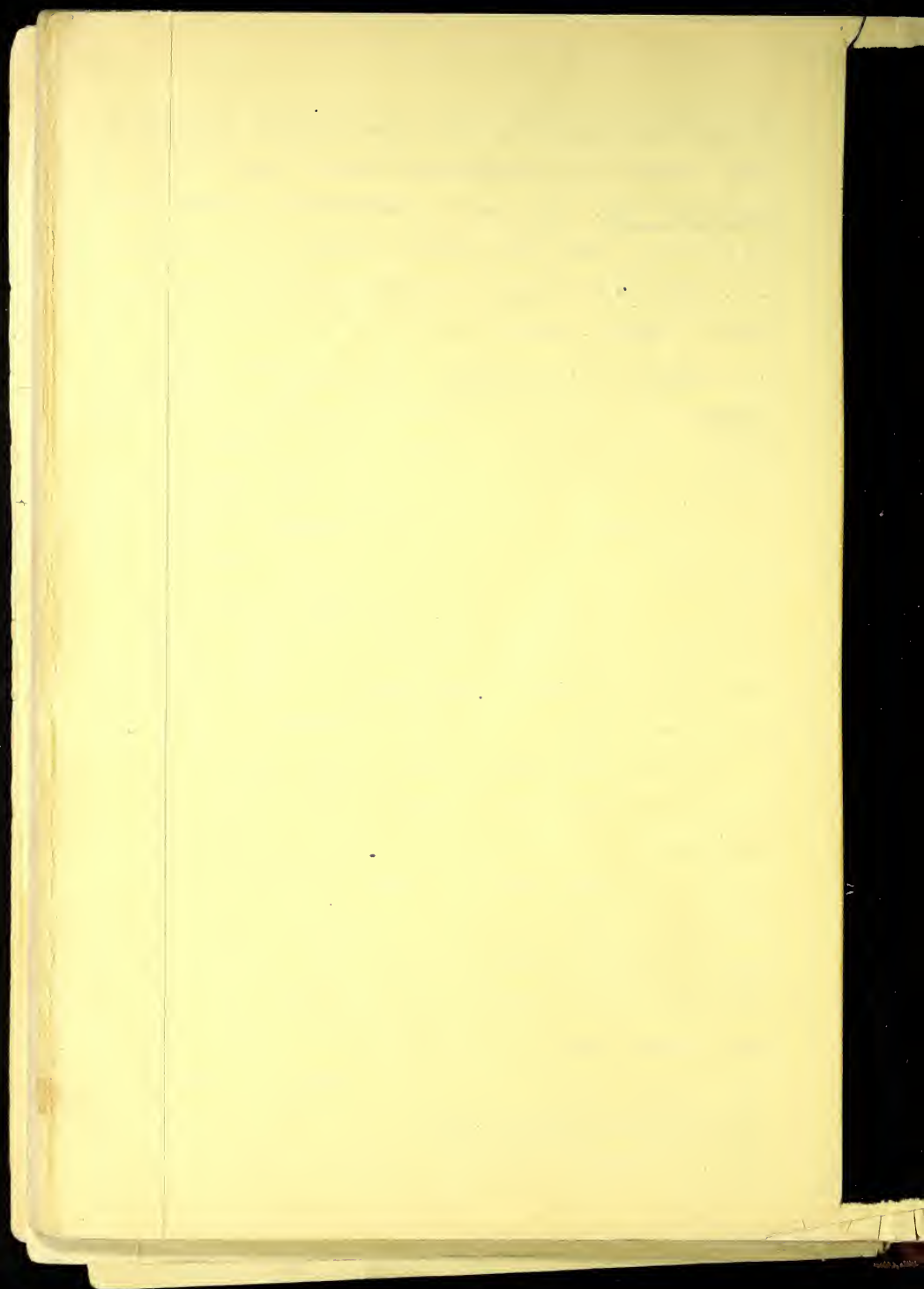
It appears that the congregation held their first services in a school building on the site of the now abandoned brick building occupied by the John Zorn family for a residence. (1937) . It was not until about 1874 that a church building 30x42 was built. The trustees at that time were Abram Scott, Peter Hoover and John Vanness. The cost was around \$1200.00 according to an old subscription list. This building was used as a church until 1907. Two entrances both at the west end were used, one for women and the other for men. Inside the ladies were seated on the north side of the room and the men on the south as was customary at the time. Dedicatory services for this building were conducted by Rev. Bishop Johnathan Weaver. He was bishop from 1865 to 1884. He was a man of culture and fidelity and a prince among preachers. His pastorate here was certainly a day of rejoicing and enthusiasm. We pass over the years 1874 to about 1906 of 1874-1894 which little record seems to exist. During these years[°] Wooster was a busy trading center but began to wane about the turn of the century.

In 1907 while Mr. Bast was the minister the church building was remodelled to its present appearance. W. H. Bast was also a contractor and so it was natural that talk should lean towards remodelling the building. The improvement consisted of some cobblestone masonry, covering the old siding with shingle and changing the front and the windows. A furnace was put in to take the place of the stoves. Rev. L.O.Oyler was Superintendent

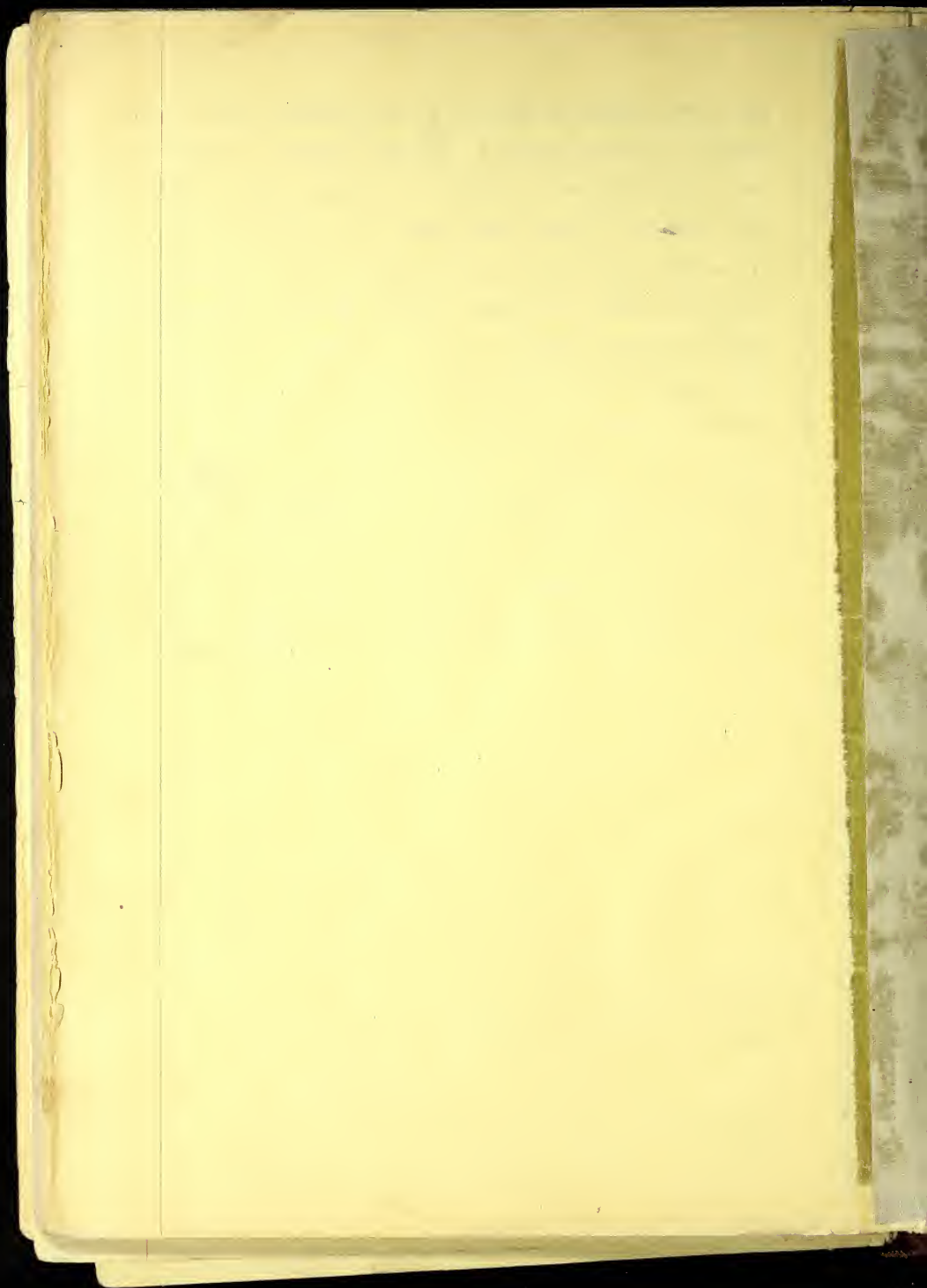


of the Warsaw District at this time. On March 15, 1908 the newly arranged and remodelled edifice was dedicated by the Rev. H. H. Fout. The cost of remodelling was about \$1500.00. Two ministers before this church building was remodelled were I. N. Shilling and Rev. J. N. Martin, Shilling being the successor to Martin. Recent ministers of the church have been J. W. Cummings, J. W. Borkert, Rev. S. Snyder, Rev. R. C. Dillman, up to about 1914. Rev. O. L. Richart son of Allen Richart, who founded the church, served two years as pastor 1914-1916. Then about this time J. W. Lower became pastor to the satisfaction and joy of the congregation. It was while Rev. Lower was minister that the new furnace was installed and other improvements made. L. G. Scott was then church treasurer. Rev. Walter G. Schaefer of Colorado Springs is from the Wooster Church. Mr. Schaefer is now (1937) a missionary in the enterprise at Colorado Springs.

The 76th anniversary of the Wooster Church (according to an account in the Pierceton Record for Wednesday, April 14, 1937) was held in the church with Rev. O. F. Givens as the minister in charge. Services were Sunday April 11, 1937. 150 people enjoyed the carry in dinner after the services. Rev. B. H. Cain, an able minister, and superintendent from Rochester, gave an address. Ex-Judge Royse who as a boy lived near Wooster, gave a very able address of life as it was in that vicinity before the Civil War. Royse was the son of George Washington Augustus Royse who was a native of New Hampshire. He rode the circuit as a Methodist minister in Ohio

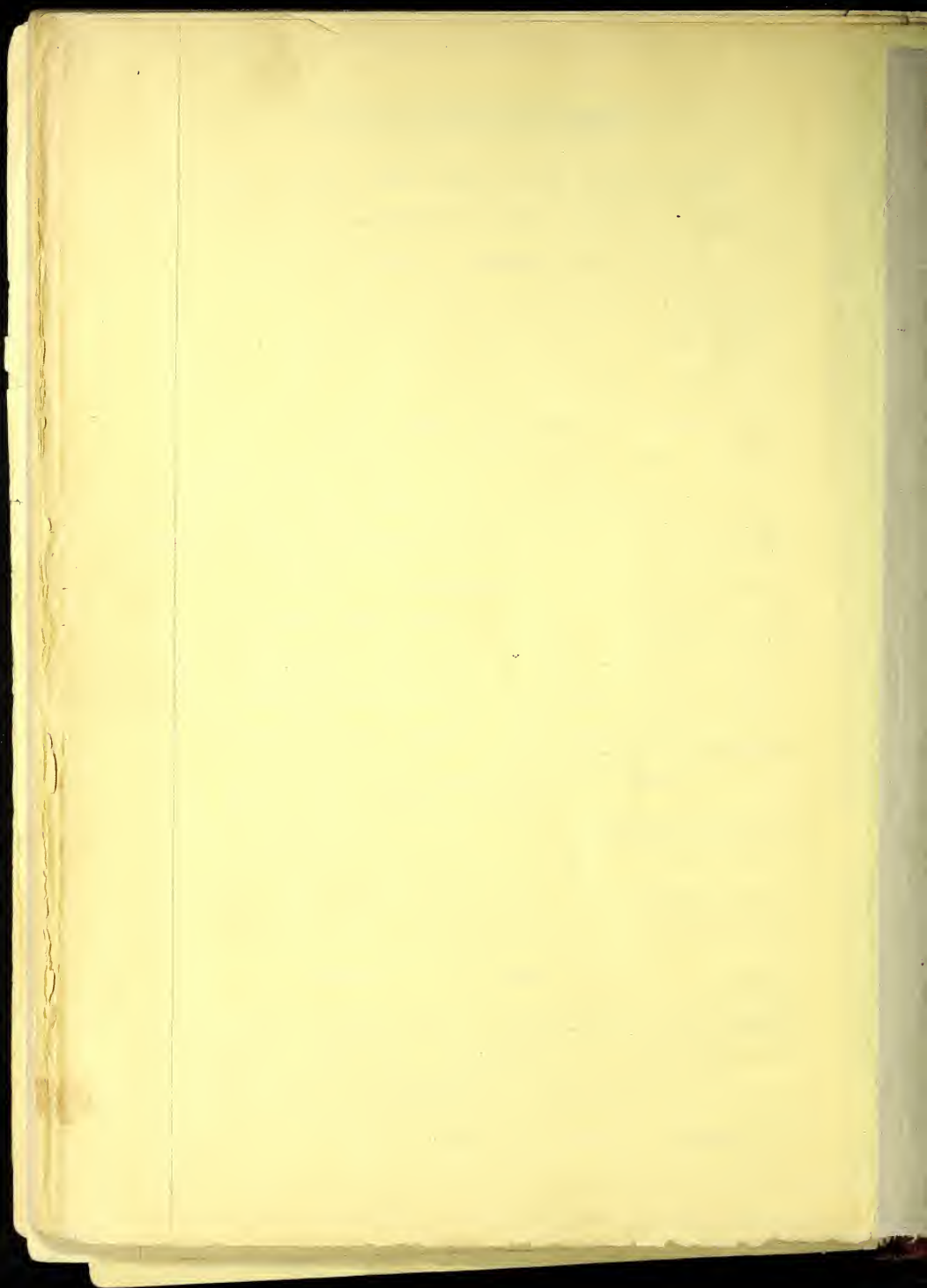


and after coming to Indiana it is supposed that G.W.A. taught the first school in the new county. In 1836 he and William Felkner assessed the county, Royse taking the east side and Felkner the west. G.W.A. died in April, 1859. L. W. Royse was born near Pierceton in 1847, however, this was six years before Pierceton legally existed. Nancy Choplin Royse was Lem's mother. She was a native of Vermont being born near the old Bennington battleground. She was a member of the Universalist church at Pierceton. Royse taught school and was not a soldier in the Civil War because he had to support his widowed mother. Royse was admitted to the bar in 1871 was at one time mayor of Warsaw, and later in life was judge. He was an able lawyer in the firm of Royse and Shane. He lived until December 1946 being nearly 100 years old at the time.
of his death.



Contributed by Anna Froehly.

There used to be at least three trains stop each week day at Wooster. The accomodation came along going west at 8 o'clock in the morning. Another came at 1:00 P. M. going west. An eastbound train stopped there at 10:00 P.M. Wooster used to have at one time 56 families. Each family had several children in their number. Among the first settlers there were Thomas and John Rafter from County Mayo in Ireland. They came in 1837. Wooster at one time could boast of having three saw mills and one brick yard. Darias Pollock used to be the village blacksmith. Henry Keefer had a general store and a Mr. Baker had a hall over the store. Baker's Hall was the place where dances were held and other public meetings. Later a daughter, Lell Baker, used the lower store room for the buying and selling of eggs. A little later George Bridenthral had a variety and notion store in Wooster. About the same time George Raridan had a grocery store there. Mr. Wesley Downs, later a resident of Pierceton, was the last postmaster at Wooster. He served from 1885-1888 under Cleveland. Mr. Downs was the father of Mrs. Fred Fletcher. The postoffice at that time was on the lot now owned by Donald DeCamp. Some of the other early residents of Wooster were Michael & Catherine Daily, Daniel Keefer, John Vanness and his wife, Mr. & Mrs. Holbrook, the Dicks, McGinleys, the parents of Jap Hoover, the Harbaughs, Hiram Mickeys, Sylvan Phillippses, and the McGinleys. Wooster is a village that perhaps will never be revived because there is no lake near and people will go to Pierceton to trade.



To supplement what Anna Froehly contributes about Wooster we might say that a map of this village appears in the old atlas for 1879. The original plat consists of about 40 lots designated by blocks. Then there is Hoover and Harbaugh's Addition east of the original plat and block 17 northwest of the first plat. A sawmill is shown on Lot 6 of Block 6. A church and schoolhouse is shown in the H&H Add. on the west lots of Block 12, the church being on Lot 4 and the schoolhouse on Lot 5 just south of the church. One block east of the schoolhouse and on the south side of Washington Street is shown a blacksmith's shop. John Vanness owned the land to the north of town, T. Brosnahan and H. E. Pollock ^{on} owned east of town and Peter and Rebecca Hoover lived and owned the land to the west. Perhaps the biggest improvement that Wooster has seen since the building of the railroad was the building of new road 30 about 1949 which passes just north of the tracks. Automobiles now go thru the old townsite fifty to seventy miles an hour and thousands of trucks go by every week. Passenger trains go by on the railroad 85 miles an hour and the old freight of forty cars now is replaced by those two to three miles long pulled by diesel engines which have come into use since World War No. 2. One is reminded of Goldsmith's lines in the Deserted Village.

Near yonder copse where once the garden smiled
And still where many a garden flower grows wild,
There where a few torn shrubs the place disclose
The village preacher's modest mansion rose.

